HARTLEY BOTANIC

HANDMADE WITH PRIDE SINCE 1938

HANDMADE
OFFERS
FOR YOU

Bespoke Victorian Glasshouse with double porch, Massachusetts, USA

Discover the secret of Hartley Botanic by calling UK - 0800 783 8083 or visit www.hartley-botanic.co.uk
USA - 781 933 1993 or visit www.hartley-botanic.com

RHS
Inspiring everyone to grow

NOTHING ELSE IS A HARTLEY

The only aluminium Glasshouses and Greenhouses endorsed by the RHS

HANDMADE IN ENGLAND
TRUSTED FOR 80 YEARS

© The Royal Horticultural Society 2020. Endorsed by the Royal Horticultural Society. Registered Charity No 222879/SC038262 rhs.org.uk

PLANTING IDEAS • BEAUTIFUL GARDENS • EXPERT ADVICE

GARDENS ILLUSTRATED

Grow beautiful bulbs
for pollinators

HOW TO PROPAGATE FERNS

A RURAL GARDEN
where contemporary cool meets pop-tastic colour

Stylish ideas for
DISPLAYING HOUSEPLANTS

British cut flowers
from the third generation Yorkshire flower farmer

THE WILDLIFE GARDEN
with a West Coast vibe

ALITEX™

GREENHOUSES AND CONSERVATORIES

www.alitex.co.uk

01730 826900

More than just a greenhouse.

Editor's letter

October is the opportunity to leapfrog winter into spring. So much in the garden is about planning and in this issue we share the best and most beautiful bulbs to plant for pollinators. From a late-flowering snowdrop, to a delicate erythronium, to the Turk's cap lily, described as 'truly an artist's flower' by organic bulb specialist Adam Hunt, our recommendations have been chosen for their beauty, reliability and value to foraging insects. Note that it is important to plant a range of different bulbs that will flower across as long a season as possible, as well as selecting those that have been grown without the use of pesticides including neonicotinoids. You'll want a notebook and pencil to hand.

In the first of a new propagation series, Matthew Reese, head gardener at Malverleys Gardens in Hampshire, considers ferns. There are few perennials that have such a distinctive and recognisable form, despite their huge variation in size and shape, and Matthew shares practical ways to increase their number.

A resurgence in the popularity of British-grown cut flowers has seen a new wave of start-up gardener-florists in recent years, often working on a small scale. In this issue we visit James Rowe, a third-generation Yorkshire flower farmer, whose family has been growing choice dahlias, as well as other cut flowers, alongside the ruins of a medieval priory in Guisborough for more than 50 years.

James shares what he has learned as well as his favourite flowers.

I hope you enjoy the issue,

Lucy Bellamy

LUCY BELLAMY, EDITOR

JASON INGRAM

Learn how to propagate ferns, page 54.

Contents

OCTOBER 2020

Plants

20 **Plantsman's favourites** Wildside's Keith Wiley chooses his ten favourite plants for October

46 **Plant profile: *Persicaria*** Rory Dusoir suggests the best of this useful genus that offers brightly coloured flower spikes above hearty green foliage

54 **Flexible fronds** Learn how to propagate these versatile and beautiful foliage plants

70 **Bulbs for pollinators** Discover some of the loveliest and best bulbs that pollinators adore

86 **Inside edge** Malverleys' head gardener, Matthew Reese shares expert secrets for creating stylish displays of houseplants

88 **Flowering tradition** Third-generation flower grower James Rowe is continuing his family's business within the enchanting shadow of a medieval priory

114 **String of beads** A houseplant that can be hard to care for but is easy to love

Places

32 **Mood music** Designer Angus Thompson has created a garden for a barn conversion that offers rhythmic planting within a series of rabbit-proof flower beds

40 **Balancing act** Design studio Acres Wild's garden around a former stable block matches contemporary styling with a riot of colourful planting

60 **The long view** Alongside Long House Plants in Essex, Tim Carter's garden showcases how beautiful the plants he sells will become over time

78 **Call of the wild** Asked for a wildlife-friendly garden, designer Barbara Samitier has created a relaxed space that has a distinctly West Coast vibe

People

68 **Who's who** The co-founder of the charity Horatio's Garden, Dr Olivia Chapple, on the tragedy that changed her life and the gardens that are helping to transform lives

Design

95 **Design update** Including news of landscaping for a new multi-purpose arts centre in Rye, and designs for a school wrapped in plants in western India

99 **Design sourcebook** Nine of the best garden spades

Regulars

3 **Editor's letter**

6 **Contributors**

11 **Dig in** This month: details of Tom and Sue Stuart-Smith's autumn lecture for the NGS and news of a prize-wining magnolia

17 **Kitted out** For planting bulbs

26 **Hard lessons** As temperatures start to drop, Aaron looks at the advantages of growing plants hard now so that you can achieve stronger, healthier crops next year

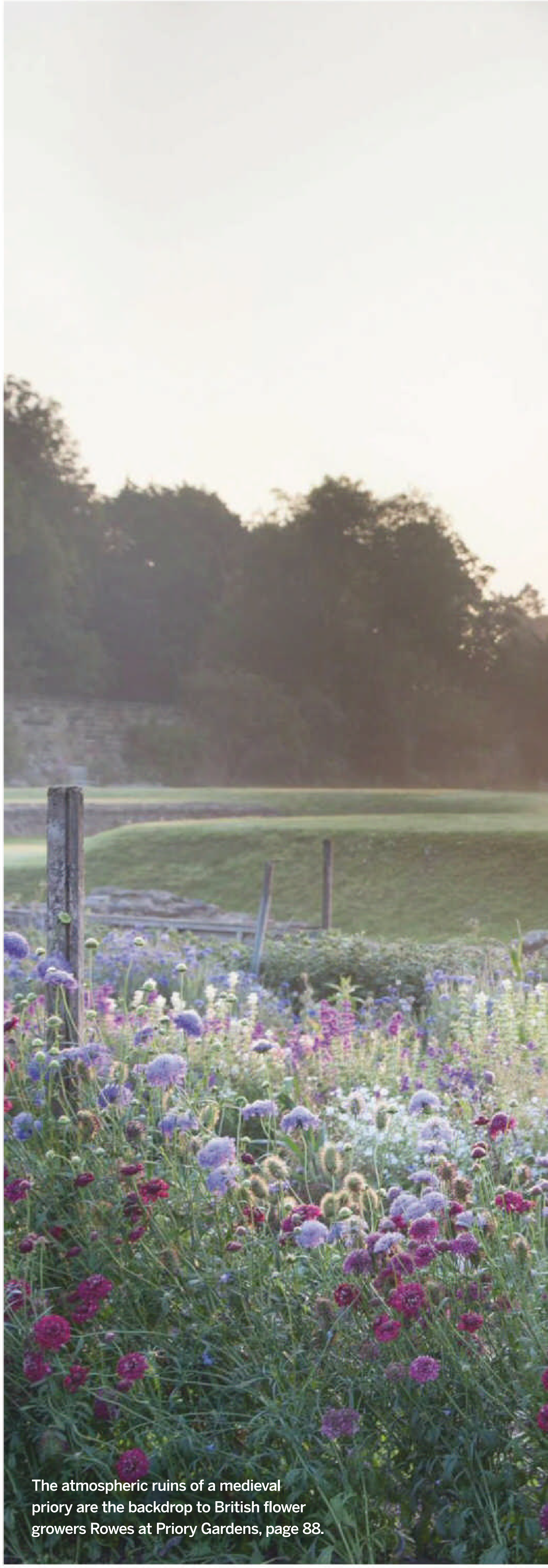
28 **Gardening talent** Meet Matthew Oliver head of RHS Hyde Hall's Global Growth Vegetable Garden

30 **Subscription offer** Save money when you subscribe to the digital edition of *Gardens Illustrated* this month

101 **Books** New books, including Phaidon's *The Garden: Elements and Styles* by Dr Toby Musgrave

107 **Crossword and how to buy back issues**

113 **Next issue** What's coming up in November



The atmospheric ruins of a medieval priory are the backdrop to British flower growers Rowes at Priory Gardens, page 88.

ANNAÏCK GUITTENY

Subscribe & save

take out a digital subscription to *Gardens Illustrated*

SEE PAGE 30

COVER IMAGE

Allium siculum subsp. *dioscoridis* x *A. tripedale* by Jason Ingram

ON THE COVER

Beautiful bulbs, page 70
Rural garden, page 40
Propagating ferns, page 54
Wildlife garden, page 78
Display houseplants, page 86
British cut flowers, page 88

EVENTS AND OFFERS

- Join us on two special garden tours: to Morocco with guest host designer Tom Stuart-Smith, and to France's rose gardens with rosarian Michael Marriott – page 8
- Enjoy a 10% discount on tickets for the NGS Annual Lecture with Tom and Sue Stuart-Smith – page 11
- Save money when you subscribe to the digital edition of *Gardens Illustrated* – page 30
- Save 10%* on bulbs for pollinators from Organic Bulbs† – page 106

† Reader offer available to UK and EU readers only.

Our packaging

Subscriber copies of *Gardens Illustrated* are now delivered in paper wrapping instead of recyclable plastic polywrap. This paper wrap is 100% recyclable and made from sustainably sourced paper. Please recycle in your kerbside recycling bin. We would love to hear your feedback, please contact us at **paperwrap@immediate.co.uk**

GRIFFIN GLASSHOUSES
GREENHOUSES OF DISTINCTION

Perfect for your garden Whatever the Size!

Maintenance free structures designed to suit your space requirements and lifestyle

Our attention to detail is evident no matter how large or small the project

www.griffinglasshouses.com
or call us on 01962 772512
HANDCRAFTED IN ENGLAND
50
50 YEARS EXPERIENCE
NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME

Contributors

Marianne Majerus
Marianne photographs an elegantly polished garden, page 40. *"Photographers dream of misty mornings and beautifully designed gardens. In this garden designed by Acres Wild the dream came true."*

Lia Leendertz
Lia talks to Horatio's Gardens founder Dr Olivia Chapple, page 68. *"It was a real honour to meet Olivia. She has turned her heartbreak and love for her son into something so hugely positive."*

REBECCA FRASER

Caroline Beck
Caroline visits a third-generation grower, page 88. *"Flower growers are in demand this year. There's a deep appreciation of local growers producing beauty you can't get online."*

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

ANDREW MONTGOMERY

ANDREW MONTGOMERY

James Basson
James lives in the South of France where he runs Scape Design with his wife Helen, specialising in low-maintenance and dry gardens. He is a fervent advocate for creating sustainable landscapes. The winner of four Chelsea Gold medals, he was awarded Best in Show in 2017.

Fergus Garrett
Fergus was appointed head gardener at Great Dixter by Christopher Lloyd in 1993. He is passionate about passing on his knowledge through student programmes at Dixter and worldwide lectures. He was awarded an RHS Associate of Honour in 2008 and an RHS Victoria Medal of Honour in 2019.

Anna Pavord
Anna's books include her bestseller *The Tulip* and most recently *Landskipping*. For 30 years she was *The Independent*'s gardening correspondent. In 2000 the RHS awarded her the Veitch Memorial Medal. She lives and gardens in Dorset.

Dan Pearson
Dan is one of the UK's best-known garden designers, familiar to many through his gardening columns in the *Observer* magazine. Eight of his gardens, including the Tokachi Millennium Forest in Japan, have won awards and he was awarded Best in Show for his garden at Chelsea in 2015.

Sarah Price
Sarah is one of the UK's most sought-after garden designers who gained worldwide recognition for her designs for the 2012 London Olympic Park. She won Gold at Chelsea in 2012 and 2018, and was GMG Garden Columnist of the Year in 2016 for her design series in *Gardens Illustrated*.

GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US

Subscription enquiries and back issues

UK 03330 162114
USA/CANADA 1 866 464 8103 (TOLL-FREE)
REST OF THE WORLD +44 1604 973722
UK buysubscriptions.com/contact
buysubscriptions.com/gardensillustrated
USA/CANADA GILcustserv@cdsfulfillment.com, britsubs.com/garden
UK/REST OF THE WORLD *Gardens Illustrated*, PO Box 3320,
3 Queensbridge, Northampton NN4 7BF.
USA/CANADA *Gardens Illustrated*, PO BOX 37495, Boone, IA 50037-0495 USA.

Advertising enquiries

+44 (0)117 300 8805 heather.golden@immediate.co.uk

Editorial enquiries

+44 (0)117 300 8622 gardens@gardensillustrated.com
Gardens Illustrated, Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited,
Eagle House, Colston Avenue, Bristol BS1 4ST.

Syndication & Licensing

Gardens Illustrated is available for licensing and syndication.
+44 (0)117 300 8787 emma.brunt@immediate.co.uk

App support

For App support please visit apps.immediate.co.uk/support

We abide by IPSO's rules and regulations. To give feedback about our magazines, please visit Immediate.co.uk, email editorialcomplaints@immediate.co.uk or write to Katherine Conlon, Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited, Eagle House, Colston Avenue, Bristol BS1 4ST.

MAGAZINE CONTACTS

EDITORIAL	
Editor	Lucy Bellamy
Contributing editors	James Basson, Fergus Garrett, Anna Pavord, Dan Pearson, Sarah Price
Deputy editor	Sorrel Everton
Art director	David Grenham
Deputy art editor	Niki Goss
Production editor	Juliet Giles
Digital editor	Daisy Bowie-Sell
Editorial assistant	Katie Dutton
Botanical adviser	Dr James Compton
ADVERTISING	
Group advertising manager	Laura Jones 0117 300 8509 laura.jones@immediate.co.uk
Advertising manager	Heather Golden 0117 300 8805 heather.golden@immediate.co.uk
Business development manager	Sophie North 0117 300 8804 sophie.north@immediate.co.uk
Brand sales executive	Phil Wallington 0117 300 8807 phil.wallington@immediate.co.uk
Classified sales executive	Elle Butcher, 0117 300 8756 elle.butcher@immediate.co.uk
Advertising designer	Parvin Sepehr
INSERTS	
Laurence Robertson	+353 (0)876 902208
CIRCULATION, MARKETING, PRESS & PR	
Newstrade manager	Rob Brock
Subscriptions director	Jacky Perales-Morris
Direct marketing manager	Aimee Rhymer
Press officer	Dom Lobley dominic.lobley@immediate.co.uk
MANAGEMENT	
Chief executive officer	Tom Bureau
Managing director, Bristol	Andy Marshall
Managing director, specialist	Marie Davies
Promotions and partnerships manager, specialist	Rosa Sherwood
Publishing assistant	Lara Von Weber
SYNDICATION & LICENSING	
Director of licensing & syndication	Tim Hudson
PRODUCTION	
Production director	Sarah Powell
Production managers	Rose Griffiths, Louisa Molter
Junior production co-ordinator	Georgia Tolley

IMMEDIATE MEDIA^CO
THIS MAGAZINE IS OWNED AND PUBLISHED BY IMMEDIATE MEDIA COMPANY BRISTOL

ipso. Regulated

Standard subscription rates: UK £64.87 per annum; Eire and Europe £74.87 for 13 issues; rest of the world £79.87 for 13 issues. Distribution Frontline, Peterborough. US distribution Source IPD/Speedimpex. Email intlquery@seymour.co.uk Printed in the UK by William Gibbons Ltd. *Gardens Illustrated* (ISSN 0968-8920) (USPS 015-608) is published 13 times a year (monthly with a Special issue in July) by Immediate Media Company Bristol, Eagle House, Colston Avenue, Bristol BS1 4ST, UK. Distributed in the USA by NPS Media Group, 2 Corporate Drive, Ste. 945, Shelton, CT 06484. Periodical postage paid at Shelton, CT and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Gardens Illustrated*, PO Box 37495, Boone, IA 50037-0495. Unsolicited manuscripts, artwork or transparencies are accepted on the understanding that the publishers incur no liability for their storage or return. The contents of this magazine are fully protected by copyright and may not be reproduced without permission. The *Gardens Illustrated* cover is printed on 250gsm Respecta Gloss produced in Belgium by Burgo; the china clay filler is supplied from the UK. The Immediate Media Company Limited is working to ensure that all of its paper is sourced from well-managed forests. This magazine can be recycled for use in newspapers and packaging. Please remove any gifts, samples or wrapping and dispose of it at your local collection point. All prices are correct at time of going to press.

© Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited 2020. Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation. ISSN 0968-8920.

recycle

abc Jan-Dec 2019
38,438*
*Combined print and digital sales

DEVELOP YOUR PASSION FOR PLANTING DESIGN

At the **London College of Garden Design** our aim is to provide **world- class, inspirational garden design training.** Our six month **Planting Design Diploma** has been created to enable students to learn from the very best designers and plants people.

Through practical workshops, inspirational lectures and visits the **Planting Design Diploma** explores contemporary and traditional approaches to support and develop your planting design skills delivered over 30 days from January to June at our home in the **Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew.**

The course is led by **Andrew Fisher Tomlin** and we are fortunate to have **leading specialists lecturers** including Neil Lucas of **Knoll Gardens**, Tony Kirkham from the **Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew** and Nigel Dunnett from the **University of Sheffield** as well as design tutors including Graham Bodle, Ann-Marie Powell, Carolyn Willitts and Amanda Patton.

To find out about our **courses** at our **Australian** home in the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Melbourne Gardens please visit **lcgd.com.au**

LC
GD
LONDON
COLLEGE
OF GARDEN
DESIGN

CONTACT US
+44 (0)1483 762955
info@lcgd.org.uk
lcgd.org.uk

11-16 MARCH 2021

GARDENS OF MARRAKECH & TAROUDANT

Join special guest host, award-winning designer Tom Stuart-Smith, to explore the wonders of Morocco's contemporary gardens.

Le Jardin Secret.

GUEST HOST
Tom Stuart-Smith award-winning landscape architect working on projects internationally.

TOUR LEADER
Kirsty Fergusson trained at Capel Manor. She is now a garden writer living in France.

This special Moroccan garden tour offers a unique selection of 21st-century, mostly private gardens, designed by some of our best-known designers. Tom Stuart-Smith will join the group for two days to guide you through his own creation, **Le Jardin Secret** in the heart of Marrakech, while in the ancient city of Taroudant on the southern edge of the Atlas mountains, we visit a series of remarkable gardens designed by Eric Ossart and Arnaud Maurières, two French globetrotting botanists and renowned garden designers. A further highlight will be a day of all things Yves Saint Laurent, including a tour of **Jardin Majorelle**, and a private view of the garden of **Villa Oasis**, Yves Saint Laurent's Moroccan home.

In a picture-book setting with views of the High Atlas Mountains and a wonderful climate and cuisine, visitors will discover two warm and friendly cities steeped in history. We will stay at two remarkable, small hotels: guest house **Jnane Tamsna**, surrounded by its own botanically rich and fascinating garden, and **Dar al Hossoun** in Taroudant, an eco-friendly riad surrounding richly planted courtyards.

BOOKING DETAILS: Price per person, based on two people sharing, is £3,898 (single supplement of £350 levied by the hotels).

The price includes: bed and breakfast accommodation at Jnane Tamsna and Dar al Hossoun; five evening meals with wine plus five lunches; return flights from London Heathrow; and all transportation and visits in Morocco. The price does not include any hotel extras or travel insurance.

30 MAY – 3 JUNE 2021

THE FRENCH ROSE GARDEN

Join us for a five-day tour from Paris to the Loire Valley in the company of rosarian Michael Marriott to celebrate the French rose.

Château de Villandry.

TOUR LEADERS

Michael Marriott has worked at David Austin Roses, designing and advising for the past 30 years and is an expert on all matters relating to rose growing.

Maïté Delmas has more than 30 years' experience of managing plant collections (including roses) gained at Kew, Bordeaux and Paris Botanic Gardens.

For 2021, our popular rose tour travels over the Channel to investigate the story of the French rose and enjoy some truly wonderful gardens and rose collections. Starting with a visit with the curator of **Roseraie du Val-de-Marne** in L'Haÿ-les-Roses, you'll come to understand more about the vast array of French roses and the development of the roses we grow in our gardens today. You'll also visit collections of wild roses; a specialist nursery producing beautiful new roses each year; a village overflowing with roses in bloom; a fairy-tale château where the discerning owner has surrounded her home with sumptuous roses; as well as some intimate private gardens where roses steal the show. This is an unmissable opportunity to stroll from rose to rose discussing the merits of mulching, pruning, budding, training, and even 'the name of the rose' in the company of a great rose enthusiast and expert. We will stay one night at **Hôtel Les Pléiades**, in the village of Barbizon before travelling down to the Loire Valley to **Hôtel Le Choiseul** in Amboise. Both hotels offer good food, local wines and convivial Gallic hospitality.

BOOKING DETAILS: Price per person, based on two people sharing is £3,280 (a single supplement of £250 is levied by the hotels).

The price includes: one night with dinner at Hôtel Les Pléiades, Barbizon and three nights at Hôtel Le Choiseul, Amboise – bed, breakfast and dinner with wine included; five lunches; return tickets on Eurostar and all transport during the tour. If you wish to travel independently to join the tour at Paris, Gare du Nord, please deduct £80 and contact the office to discuss joining arrangements. Price does not include hotel extras or travel insurance.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK EITHER TOUR PLEASE CONTACT

Boxwood Tours, 1 West Street, Buckingham HK18 1HL. **Tel** +44 (0)1341 241717 **email** mail@boxwoodtours.co.uk **website** boxwoodtours.co.uk

These tours have been arranged exclusively for readers of *Gardens Illustrated* by Boxwood Tours Quality Garden Holidays, a specialist garden tour company set up in 1990. Please note that itineraries may be subject to change for reasons beyond *Gardens Illustrated*'s control. These tours are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked (flights, hotels and other services) is listed on it. Please see our booking conditions for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: www.atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate

CLAIRE TAKACS; RHETORICAL ANSWER / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

Gartenart
swimming ponds

dive into nature

Now is the perfect time to plan your natural swimming pond. Call 020 7183 3333 for a brochure.

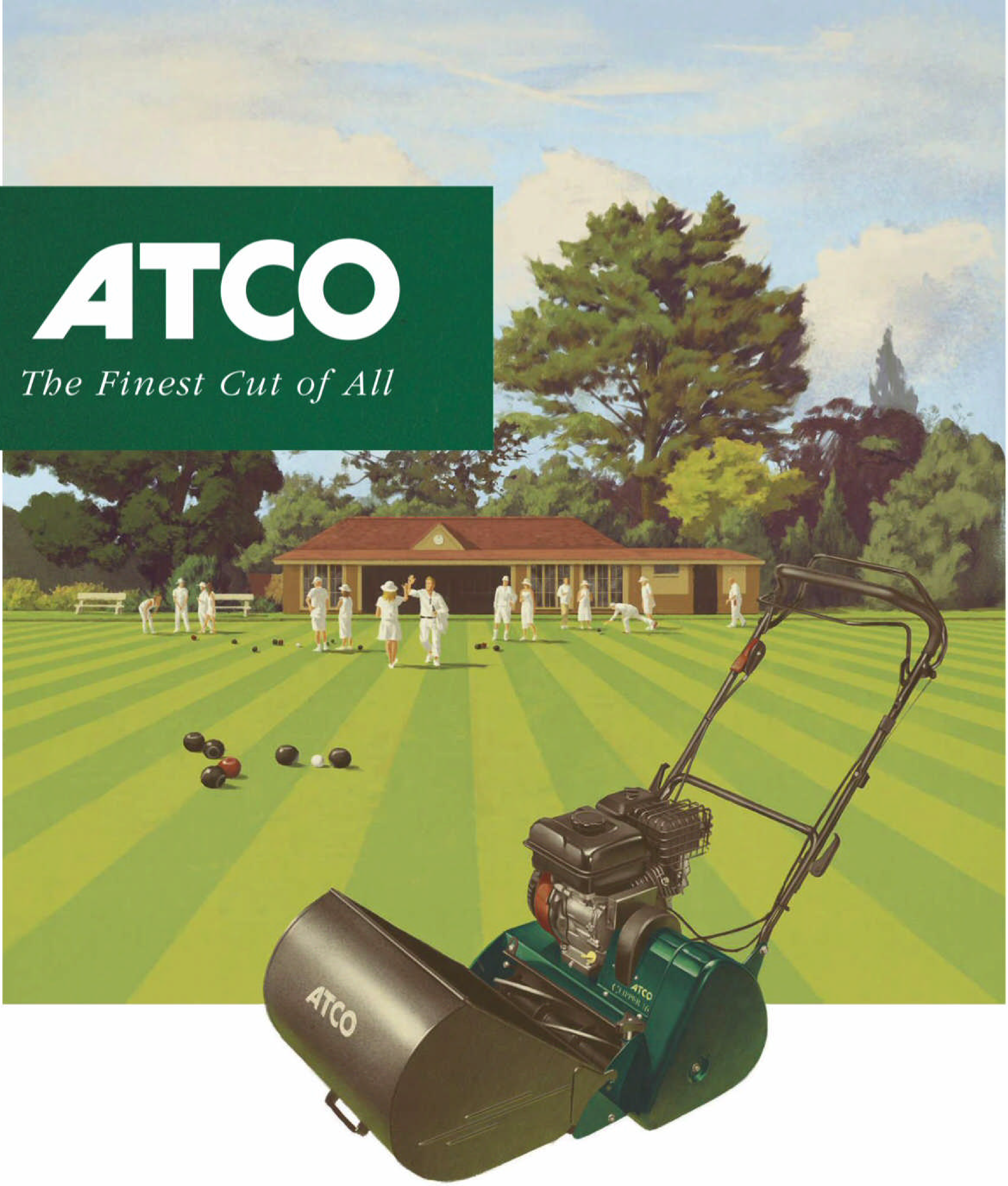
"I'm obsessed by the pond! We can't believe how much we use it and love it. Fantastic wildlife – loads of fabulous newts and tadpoles, beautiful dragonflies and butterflies as well."

Vix Wildman *Berkshire*

Gartenart Swimming Ponds
Unit 112 Screenworks, 22 Highbury Grove, London N5 2EF
020 7183 3333 www.gartenart.co.uk

ATCO

The Finest Cut of All



EST.
1921

BOWLED OVER.

From clippers to ride-ons, tractors to mowers, our 2020 range is designed in every detail to still offer the finest cut of all. ATCO – rolling with the times since 1921.

WWW.ATCO.CO.UK

Dig in

What's happening, what's in flower and what to buy this month

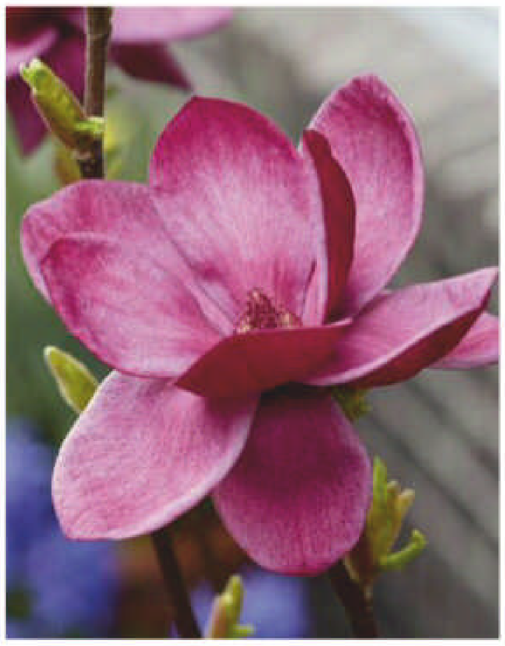
NGS / ANDREW LAWSON

Gardens are for people

Join us for this year's NGS Annual Lecture by renowned garden designer Tom Stuart-Smith and his wife Sue, a leading psychiatrist and psychotherapist whose interest in the benefits of gardens for people's mental and physical health and wellbeing forms the basis of her acclaimed book, *The Well Gardened Mind*. For both, the garden they have created together at The Barn in Hertfordshire (above) has been a source of inspiration for their careers and married life, and their talk will weave together the story of the garden, their working lives and the impact gardens have on our wellbeing. Held in association with *Gardens Illustrated*, the online lecture will be live-streamed at 7pm on 11 November, followed by an interactive Q&A with Tom and Sue. Tickets cost £25, including a free digital copy of *Gardens Illustrated*, and *Gardens Illustrated* readers can also receive a 10 per cent discount by quoting NGS2020 when booking online. To book or find out more visit **ngs.org.uk/2020-annual-lecture** – and for a chance to win a pair of tickets visit **gardensillustrated.com**

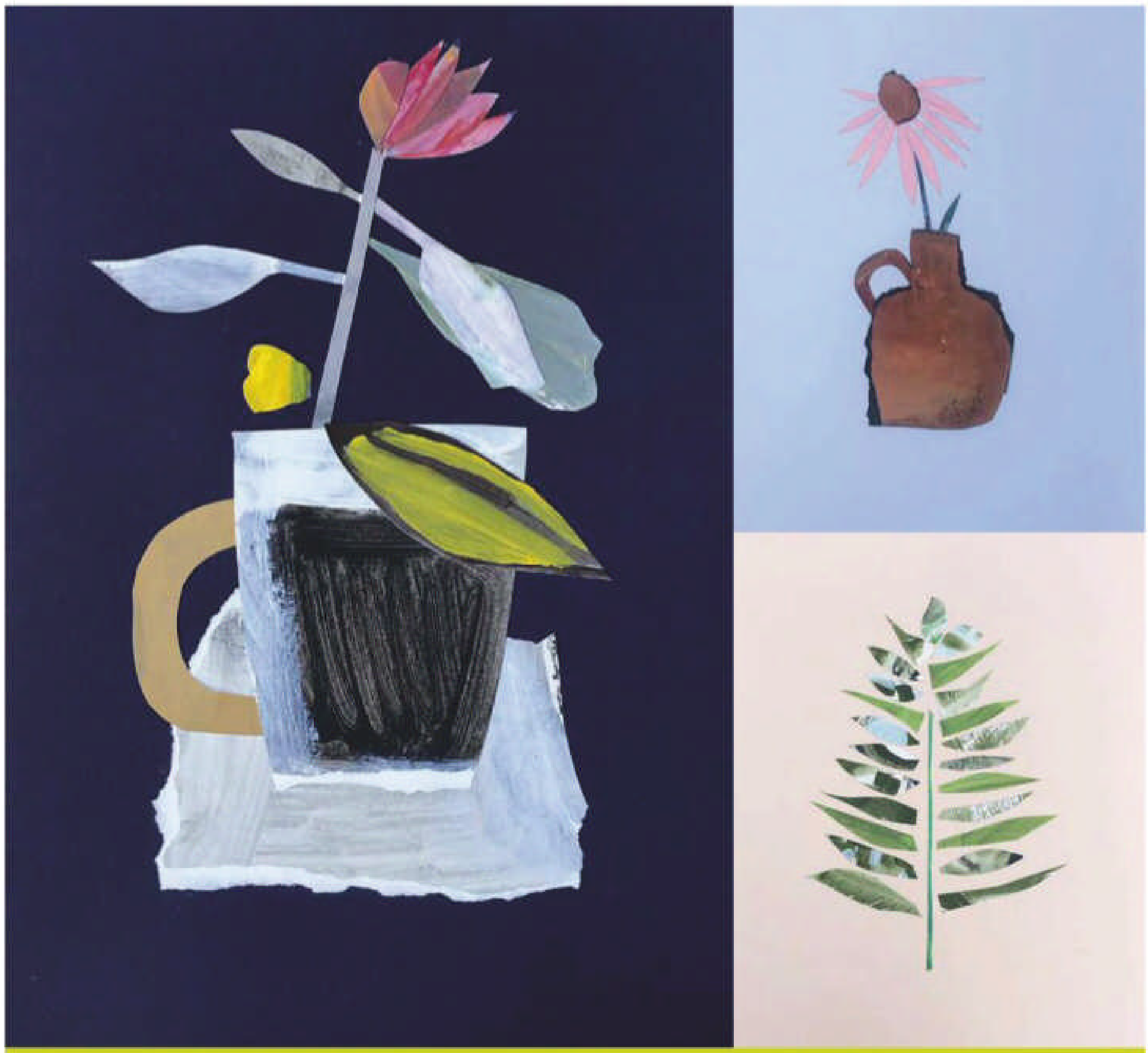
News

COMPILED BY KATIE DUTTON



Magic touch

If you're hoping to add a touch of stunning colour to your garden next spring then *Magnolia* 'Genie', with flowers that range from dusky pink to rich burgundy atop dark-green foliage might just help grant that wish. Developed by New Zealand breeder Vance Hooper, *M.* 'Genie' is the result of 15 years of plant breeding between *M.* x *soulangeana* and *M. liliiflora*, and among its many accolades it has now been awarded a gold medal by the Royal Boskoop Horticultural Society in the Netherlands. Growing to around 3m over ten years, the compact magnolia offers weeks of magical colour from April to May and will often flower again in midsummer. Available from Crocus priced £49.99 for a three-litre pot. **crocus.co.uk**



Cut flowers

When artist Diana Forbes struggled to source many of her more conventional art materials during lockdown she began to make use of everyday items found in her home, recycling old paintings and mixing clay from her garden into her paint to create the texture of pottery. The works that emerged are a warm reflection of home and capture much of the stillness that lockdown brought to many of our lives. Most of Diana's vibrant still life collages – including *Silverleaf in Mug*, *Fern* and *Echinacea* shown above – are snapshots of a simple way of living, inspired both by an appreciation of home and the flora she observes in the meadows surrounding her own. You can learn more about Diana's techniques through a series of workshops she's planning at the Tithe Barn Gardening School in Berkshire, including an Autumnal Garden Paper Collage Workshop. Visit her website for details and to see more of her collages. **dianaforbes.co.uk**

3 FOR THE GARDEN… *WATERPROOF BOOTS*

STURDY
Belford GORE-TEX Boot,
£300, Ariat,
ariat.com

THERMAL
Donegal Country Boot, walnut,
£299, Dubarry,
dubarry.com

LIGHTWEIGHT
Jameson Unisex Standard Fit Leather Boot, caramel,
£385, Le Chameau,
lechameau.com

DIANA FORBES

clearSkies 5
clearskiesmark.org
HANDCRAFTED IN DEVON

THE WOODWARM ECO RANGE

The next generation of ultra low emission Eco Stoves have arrived. In partnership with UK charity, Trees for Cities, we have committed to planting a tree for every Eco Stove sold.

SIA ecodesign ready

A Energy Rating

01884 35806 woodwarmstoves.co.uk

WOODWARM STOVES

Learning with experts

Learn from the best

Design your own garden under the watchful eye of some of the world's biggest names in gardening.

Whether you want a career change, or are keen to design your own garden, Learning with Experts gardening courses offer an unrivalled level of expertise.

Taught in our friendly and private online classroom, where you get to learn the full gamut of skills needed to become the complete gardener.

Learning with Experts is the only online course provider to offer you direct contact with the very best experts and to receive personalised feedback from the comfort of your own home.

Tutors include landscape architect Tom Stuart-Smith, influential Dutch garden designer Piet Oudolf and his long-time collaborator Dr Noel Kingsbury, garden designer and broadcaster Chris Beardshaw, Michael Marriott, chief rosarian at David Austin Roses, and top garden design lecturer Annie Guilfoyle.

With many other courses and world class experts to choose from, Learning with Experts is rapidly becoming the go-to destination to study for garden designers, enthusiasts and garden lovers alike.

Book your place at:
learningwithexperts.com

Join acclaimed plantsman and broadcaster Chris Beardshaw to learn how to get that designer look for your garden pots

Learn Piet Oudolf's garden design secrets directly from Piet and long-time collaborator Dr Noel Kingsbury

Learn the philosophy behind one of the greatest minds in garden design, Tom Stuart-Smith

Diary

COMPILED BY KATIE DUTTON AND ANNIE GATTI

❶ Our Future is Nature Inspired: PlaMatSu Exhibition
Discover how the surface properties of plant leaves and petals have inspired man-made materials, from Velcro to self-cleaning glass, in this exhibition at Cambridge University Botanic Garden. Until 31 October, 10am-6pm (5pm from 1 October). Entry to the exhibition is included in the garden's admission price, but tickets must be booked in advance. 1 Brookside, Cambridge CB2 1JE. Tel 01223 336265, botanic.cam.ac.uk

❷ Art in the Garden
Enjoy Surrey Sculpture Society's first open-air exhibition within the 35 acres of the Savill Garden in Windsor Great Park, near Egham, Surrey. More than 60 works will be on display from artists such as Mark Reed whose *Ammonite Sliver* is shown above right. Until 3 November, 9.30am-6pm (4.30pm from 1 November). Entry to the exhibition is included in the garden's admission price, but tickets must be booked in advance. Windsor Great Park, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 2HT. windsorgreatpark.co.uk/art

❸ Seedscapes: Future-Proofing Nature
A new art exhibition at the Impressions Gallery, Bradford, brings together five contemporary artists – Dornith Doherty, Sant Khalsa, Heidi Morstang, Liz Orton and Chrystel Lebas, whose *Sisymbrium irio* is shown right – who are exploring the global effort to protect vital plant species from extinction. Until 12 December, Tuesday to Saturday, 11am-5pm, entry free. Centenary Square, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD1 1SD. Tel 01274 737843, impressions-gallery.com

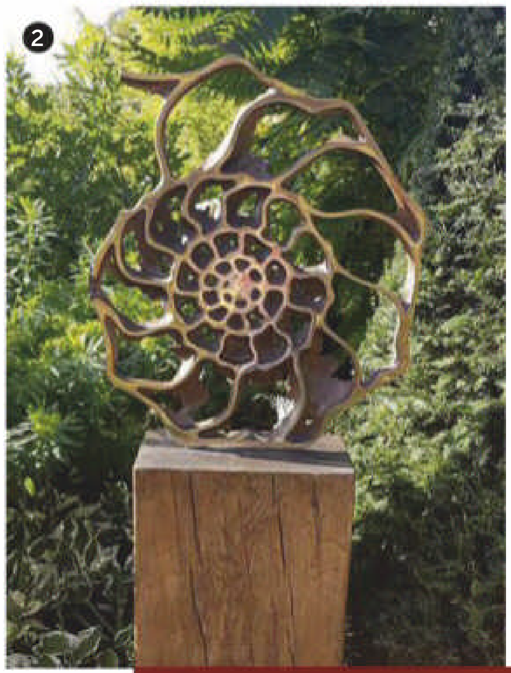
❹ Paradise Lost
The UK's first solo exhibition of the work of artist Jan Hendrix is now on show at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. His exhibition *Paradise Lost* explores the beauty and fragility of the natural world, and in particular of the landscape of the Kamay Botany Bay National Park in Australia, which once teemed with endemic flora and fauna. Until 14 March, 10am-6pm. Entry to the exhibition is included in the garden's admission price, but tickets must be booked in advance. A virtual tour of the exhibition is also available online. Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Richmond, London TW9 3AE. Tel 020 8332 5655, kew.org

❺ Creating a Sense of Place in Your Garden
Join landscape designer Emily Erlam for a three-day course at West Dean that will show you how to take cues from the landscape around your garden, to help you create a garden that is unique and personal to your space. 21-23 October, £260. West Dean Gardens, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 0RX. Tel 01243 818300, westdean.org.uk

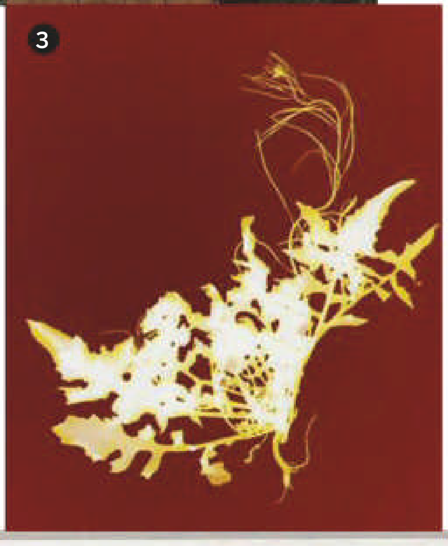
❻ Oudolf vs Robinson: Exploring Styles in Naturalistic Planting
Join gardeners, and *Gardens Illustrated* contributors, Matthew Reese and Rory Dusoir for a lively discussion at London's Garden Museum about naturalistic planting, focussing on the similarities and differences between the planting styles of William Robinson and Piet Oudolf. 17 November, 7pm-8pm. £25. The Garden Museum, 5 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7LB. Tel 020 7401 8865, gardenmuseum.org.uk

❼ Willow Deer Workshop
Learn how to make a willow deer for your home or garden on this one-day workshop with Somerset-based willow artist Jo Sadler at River Cottage. This fun workshop is suitable for beginners with no prior knowledge of weaving and all materials will be supplied, including locally sourced willow. 23 November, 9.30am-5.30pm, £155. Tel 01297 630302, rivercottage.net

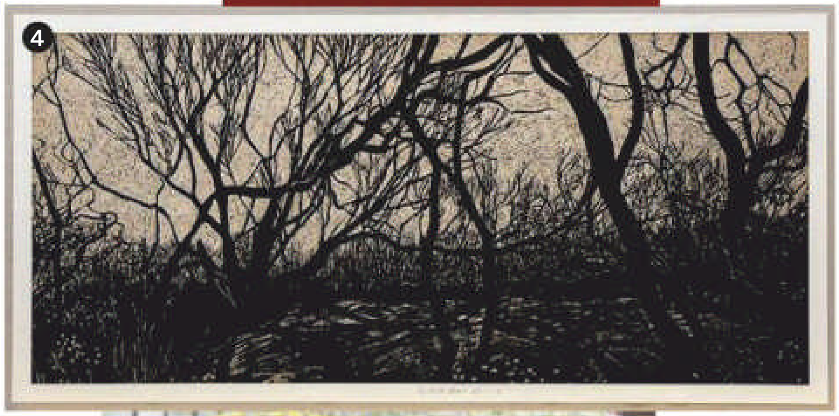
* All information is correct at time of going to press, but may be subject to change. Please be sure to check all opening times and advice on any local travel restrictions before travelling.



MARK REED



CHRYSTEL LEBAS



JAN HENDRIX

RACHEL WARNE

JASON INGRAM

YOU CAN SLEEP BETTER

with the amazing Gx Suspension Pillow™

FREE delivery for Gardens Illustrated readers with code **GA1**

SINGLE PILLOW £29.99

TWIN PACK £49.99

WHATEVER your sleep problems, the dream of a good night's sleep has now become a reality - thanks to a breakthrough invention - the Gx Suspension Pillow. All conventional pillows flatten significantly during sleep - becoming less supportive and more uncomfortable as the night progresses. The result of this is disturbed and broken sleep, frustration and the fruitless search for a better pillow. That search is now over!

To stop the flattening we've come up with a solution that's so simple it's ingenious. By the clever installation of 'double X' internal ties we have produced the world's first pillow to retain much more of its plumped shape all night long.

The ties work to pull the pillow in and up so that your head and neck are gently cradled and supported in softly sprung comfort. As well as having the revolutionary internal ties, the pillow shell is 100% cotton with our superb hypoallergenic Polycoz filling, and we have added a unique integral air vent to help keep you cool through the night.

As if all these benefits were not enough, you can purchase the pillow with our **30-night comfort guarantee – total satisfaction or your money back***. Tens of thousands of delighted customers have already rediscovered the benefits of a great night's sleep, why not join them? Now available with **FREE delivery for Gardens Illustrated readers**, use code **GA1.**

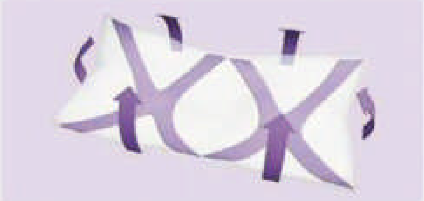
Actor Rula Lenska had this to say:

"It is rare that something advertised as unique and life changing turns out to be true!! I have a chronic back and neck situation and I can honestly say these pillows make a huge difference!! Comfortable…supportive…and positively magical for my neck!! Congratulations! Many, many thanks"

Harley Street Consultant and back pain specialist, Dr Deane Halfpenny, recommends Gx Pillows:

"I can honestly say that your pillow has made the world of difference… and fully endorse your pillow as being quite unique in its ability to maintain support throughout the night"

- ✓ Unique internal tie technology maintains shape throughout the night



- ✓ Stays plump all night long
- ✓ Provides comfort and support
- ✓ Integral air vent keeps you cool
- ✓ Luxurious 100% cotton shell
- ✓ Hypoallergenic Polycoz filling
- ✓ Designed and made in the UK
- ✓ Choose from Medium-soft or Medium-firm
  Most sleepers prefer Medium-soft however if you prefer a firmer pillow choose Medium-firm
- ✓ Our promise to you: Sleep on the Gx Pillow for 30 nights and if you are not completely satisfied, we'll give you your money back*

To order a great night's sleep - FREEPHONE

0800 316 2689

Lines open Mon-Sat, 9am-6pm

Quote 'GA1' for FREE delivery

or order online:

www.gxpillows.co.uk

Enter 'GA1' in discount box for FREE delivery

*Terms and conditions apply - please see website for details.

FREE delivery Please send me: GA1

Single Gx Pillows @ £29.99 each + FREE delivery (any qty):

Medium-soft ☐ (quantity) | Medium-firm ☐ (quantity)

Twinpack Gx Pillows @ £49.99 per pack + FREE delivery (any qty):

2 Medium-soft ☐ (quantity) | 2 Medium-firm ☐ (quantity)

1 Medium-soft & 1 Medium-firm ☐ (quantity)

TOTAL £

Payment Method: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ A cheque payable to BEAUTIFUL SLEEP

Card No.

Please make cheques payable to Beautiful Sleep Ltd

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL BOXES IN BLOCK CAPITALS TO ENSURE CORRECT DESPATCH

Title Name

Address

Postcode

Tel. No.

Valid from / Expiry / Security No.

Signature

Address envelope to: FREEPOST BEAUTIFUL SLEEP

No other details or stamp required!

KITTED OUT

For bulb planting

COMPILED BY KATIE DUTTON

①

MAIN IMAGES DAVE CAUDERY

②

100% PEAT FREE
ALL PURPOSE
COMPOST

③

④

⑧

⑦

⑥

⑤

1. Trusco Tool Box, silver, £35, tinkerandfix.co.uk **2. Organic Biochar All Purpose Compost,** 20kg, £18.99, 0117 244 0032, carbongold.com **3. Bulldog Premier Bulb Planter,** £33.95, 01376 346197, bulldoghandtools.co.uk **4. Jumpy Chelsea Boot,** kaki green & brique sole, £45, 01202 232357, backdoorshoes.co.uk **5. Root Pouch,** grey, from £1.25 (for 3.8L), londongrow.com **6. Cashmere Wrist Warmers,** grey & neon orange, £45, 020 7229 4848, wolfandbadger.com **7. Kent & Stowe Small Bulb Planter,** £9.99, 0344 557 6700, marshallsgarden.com **8. Ringed Galvanised Planters,** from £11.99, crocus.co.uk

2

7

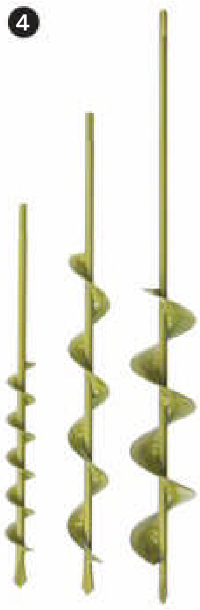
6

Turtle Bags
Long Handle
Turtle Bags
Long Handle

5

BIOBIZZ
BIO·GROW

4



3

1. Hand Held Bulb Planter – RHS Endorsed, £19.99, 0114 233 8262, burgonandball.com **2. Carhartt Women's Crawford Bib Overalls,** dark brown, £79.99, tinkerandfix.co.uk **3. Silk Glove Liners,** £20, 020 3617 1166, genus.gs **4. Bulb Planting Augers,** from £7.99, crocus.co.uk **5. BioBizz Bio-Grow,** 500ml, £4.95, londongrow.com **6. Turtle Bags Long Handled String Bags,** £7 each, 01299 827092, turtlebags.co.uk **7. Sloane Waterproof Boots,** navy, £220, 01785 662277, welligogs.com

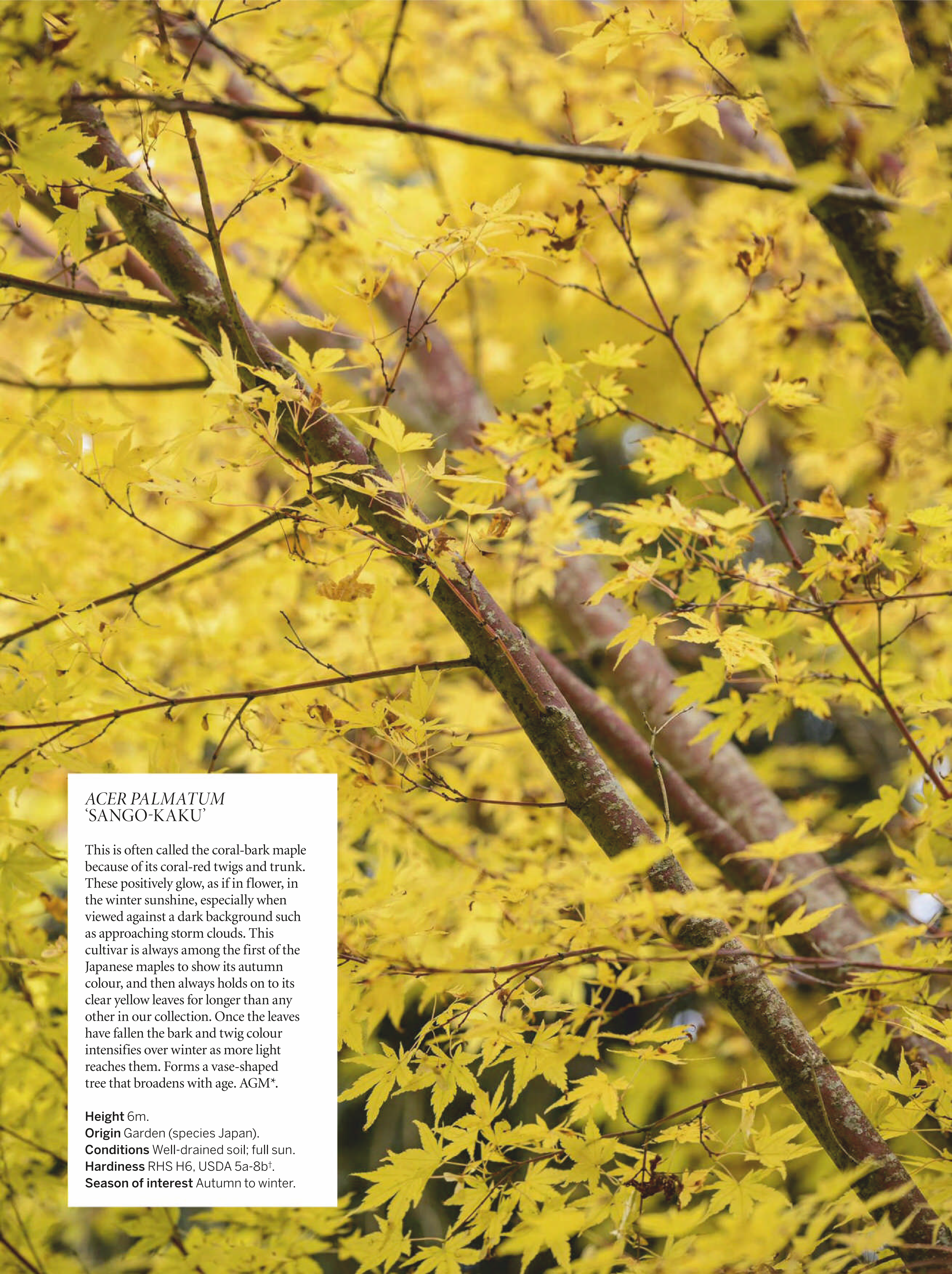
SITTING SPIRITUALLY
— Of Lyme Regis —
Did you know we make Bespoke Pergolas?
Created by craftsmen for your exacting standards

RHS
Inspiring everyone to grow

The only bespoke swing and bench maker licensed by the RHS

sittingspiritually.co.uk 01297443084

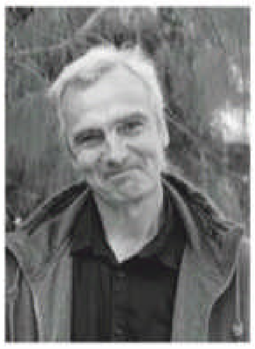
© The Royal Horticultural Society 2020. Endorsed by the Royal Horticultural Society Registered Charity No 222879/SC038262. rhs.org.uk



ACER PALMATUM ‘SANGO-KAKU’

This is often called the coral-bark maple because of its coral-red twigs and trunk. These positively glow, as if in flower, in the winter sunshine, especially when viewed against a dark background such as approaching storm clouds. This cultivar is always among the first of the Japanese maples to show its autumn colour, and then always holds on to its clear yellow leaves for longer than any other in our collection. Once the leaves have fallen the bark and twig colour intensifies over winter as more light reaches them. Forms a vase-shaped tree that broadens with age. AGM*.

Height 6m.
Origin Garden (species Japan).
Conditions Well-drained soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H6, USDA 5a-8b[†].
Season of interest Autumn to winter.



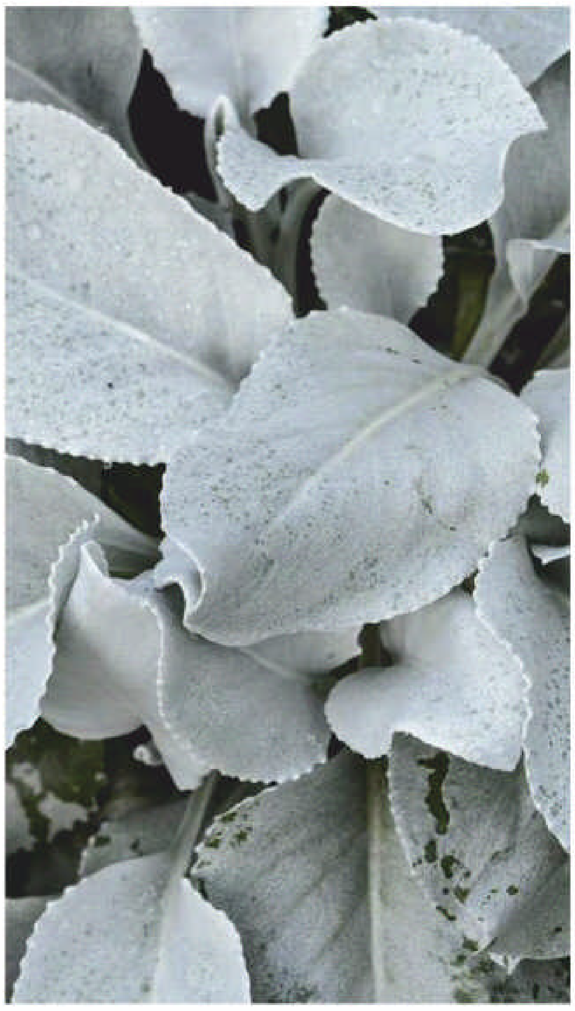
CHARLIE HOPKINSON

Keith Wiley
runs Wildside
nursery in Devon
wileyatwildside.com

October plants

As Keith's attention starts to move to foliage plants, he also chooses a flame-coloured chrysanthemum and a coral-pink nerine to bring some warmth to October's cooler days

WORDS KEITH WILEY PHOTOGRAPHS JASON INGRAM



SENECIO CANDIDANS ANGEL WINGS (= 'SENAW')

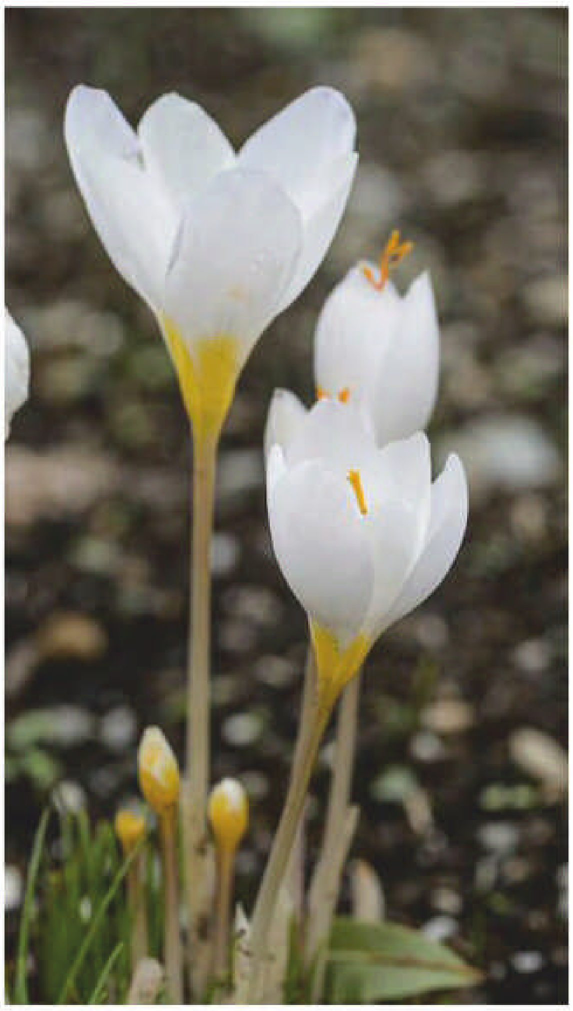
This appears to be simply a robust form of *Senecio candidans* with the now customary, add-on, catchy marketing name. The species itself is also called sea cabbage as it grows on the seashore. Large, oval, intensely silver and felted leaves mean that this plant, which spreads to around 80cm, shouts its presence wherever it grows, so needs careful placement to avoid visually overpowering its neighbours. I prefer to remove the rather disappointing flowers and take precautions against slugs and snails that will strip the surface of the leaves.

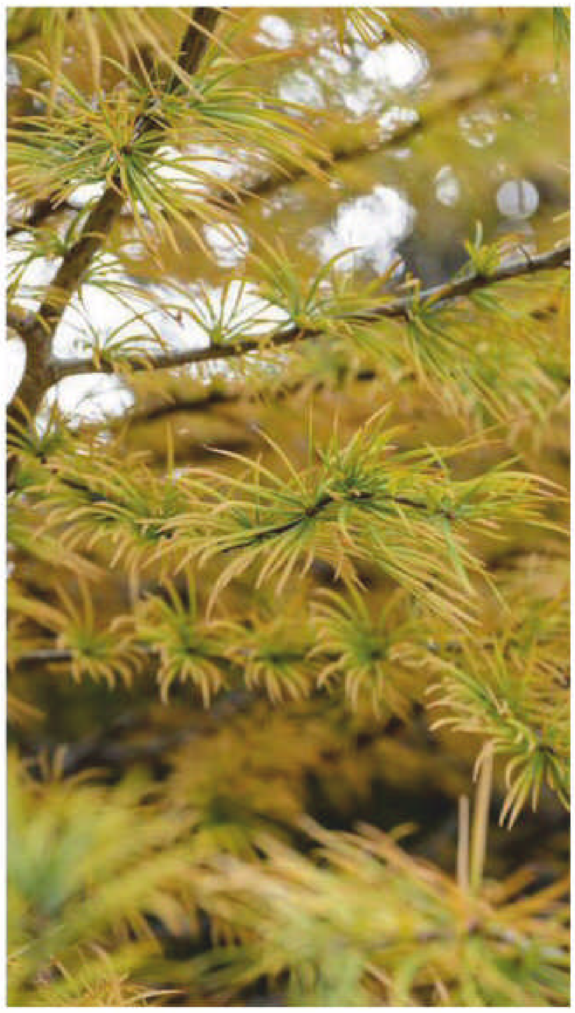
Height 30cm.
Origin Garden (species Argentina, Chile, Falkland Islands).
Conditions Well-drained soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H3, USDA 8a-10b.
Season of interest Year round.

CROCUS SPECIOSUS 'ALBUS'

The shorter days and early autumn rains are the time when the autumn-flowering crocuses choose to flower. They are less flamboyant than their spring cousins and in my experience, rather less easy to please and flower well, but this pristine white cultivar of one of the easiest species is a winner on all fronts. It will happily grow and flower well in thin grass, where admittedly it is safer from hungry rodents, but I prefer to see it emerging from the ground unhindered by neighbours of any sort, where its classic simplicity can best be appreciated. AGM.

Height 15-20cm.
Origin Garden (species Transcaucasus).
Conditions Well-drained soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H6, USDA 4a-9b.
Season of interest Autumn.





PSEUDOLARIX AMABILIS

The golden larch, although it's not actually a true larch, is so named because of the rich, orange colour the needles assume before they fall in the autumn. These needles are broader, giving a much lusher effect, and the tree is much slower-growing, otherwise it is superficially similar to the European larch, and shares that species' attributes of fresh-green foliage in spring and pleasing symmetry of the bare skeletal branches in the winter months. This is a rarely grown species that deserves to be more widely planted in gardens of all sizes, even smaller ones, for its year-round charms. AGM.

Height Slowly to 6m in UK.
Origin Eastern China.
Conditions Well-drained soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H7, USDA 4a-7b.
Season of interest Year round.

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. Hardiness ratings given where available.

The

ENGLISH GARDENING SCHOOL

– CHELSEA –

THE ESSENTIAL GARDEN DESIGN DIPLOMA

January – March 2021 BOOKING NOW

Based at the Chelsea Physic Garden and led by Rosemary Alexander and architect Catriona Rowbotham, the course is an overview of Garden Design, covering all the elements needed to rethink an average garden. Taking students step by step through site surveying, using the grid, horizontal and vertical features, garden layouts and planting plans, costing and specification, plus drawing tuition and homework on design and plant portfolios. Tutors are well respected in the industry and will guide students on how to succeed in this diverse profession.

(2 days a week (Wed & Thu), 10.30am–3.15pm, plus 2 days homework)

ONE YEAR GOOD GARDENING DIPLOMA

September 2021 – June 2022

Covers the best in planting design while training in the more serious aspects of horticultural techniques. Practical sessions held at Arundel Castle under the guidance of head gardener Martin Duncan and at Sandhill Farm House, Rogate. Lectures by many leading gardening personalities and regular visits to outstanding private gardens. Students also learn to draw up planting plans.

(1 day a week (Tues), 10.30am–3.15pm, over three terms)

GARDENING FOR BEGINNERS

Wednesday & Thursday 21/22 April & 5/6 May 2021

One of our most popular courses, led by master horticulturist Ben Pope, which aims to take each student through all the practical elements of caring for a garden from soil, tools, maintenance, seed sowing and propagating, weed control and pests and diseases. The first 3 days will be spent at the Chelsea Physic Garden and the final day will be spent gaining practical experience in Rosemary Alexander's much praised garden near Petersfield and the garden nearby, where Ben is in charge. Participants will be given a chance to prune, plant, sow seeds and regular maintenance tasks will be discussed. A light lunch and refreshments will be provided daily.

GARDEN DESIGN & CARING FOR YOUR GARDEN

Distance Learning Courses study anytime, anywhere in the world

A stepping stone to a new career. These two correspondence courses are a step by step guide to either designing your own garden or learning how to plant and maintain an existing garden: drawing up plans, hard landscaping, site analysis, planting, month by month tasks etc. Taught through a comprehensive course book, with projects submitted to us. *(1-3 years to complete and individual assessment)*

Garden of Medicinal Plants – Chelsea Physic Garden Photo: R Alexander

Not sure which Diploma course is for you? We prefer potential students to attend an Information Session when Rosemary explains the whole course content and you can see our facilities at the historic Chelsea Physic Garden.

JUST CONTACT US TO SET UP A DATE/TIME

www.englishgardeningschool.co.uk
Email: info@englishgardeningschool.co.uk
Tel: 020 7352 4347

Long established as the leader in all design and gardening tuition and based at the unique and historic Chelsea Physic Garden

---

MUNTONS TRADITIONAL PLANT SUPPORTS

See the complete range:
muntons.net

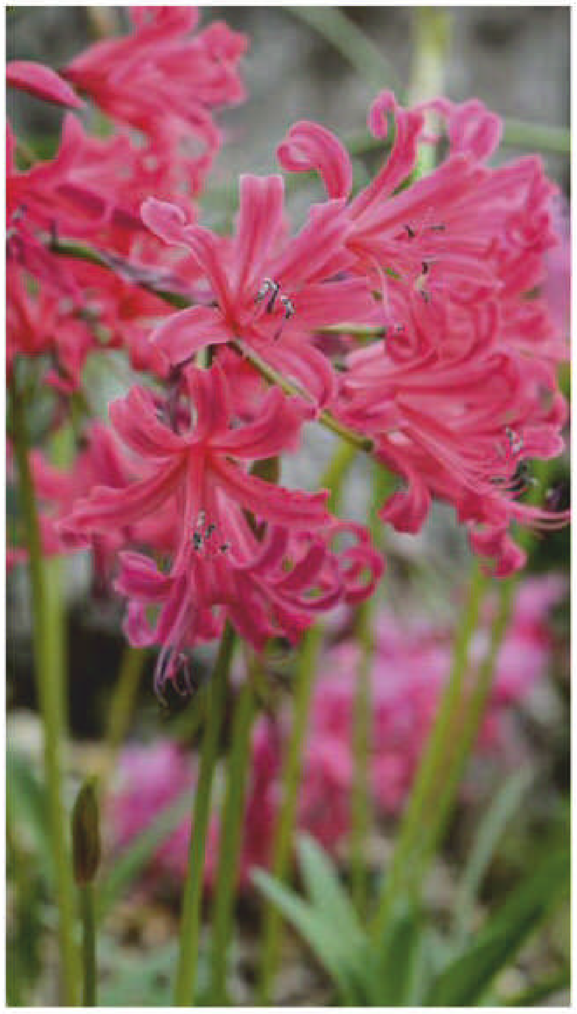
Catalogue requests / enquiries:
01285 706511

herbaceous supports
obelisks & cages
arches & tunnels
stakes & hoops
trellises & wall supports
step-overs & fruit cages

NERINE 'WILDSIDE'

Many years ago I was gifted a small collection of nerines that a remarkable plantswoman the late Amy Doncaster had grown from seed. Among the pots of what were mainly *N. flexuosa* variants, there appeared one very large, early flowering seedling that was so different I initially assumed it was a hybrid with an amaryllis. Now I think it is probably just an exceptionally good nerine hybrid. Almost as hardy as *N. bowdenii* this is one of the first and most reliable flowering nerines among the many we grow, and has happily grown outside here, unprotected, for more than 20 years.

Height 80cm in flower.
Origin Garden (species South Africa).
Conditions Well-drained soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H3, USDA 8a-9b.
Season of interest Autumn.



FUCHSIA MAGELLANICA VAR. *MOLINAE* 'ALBA'

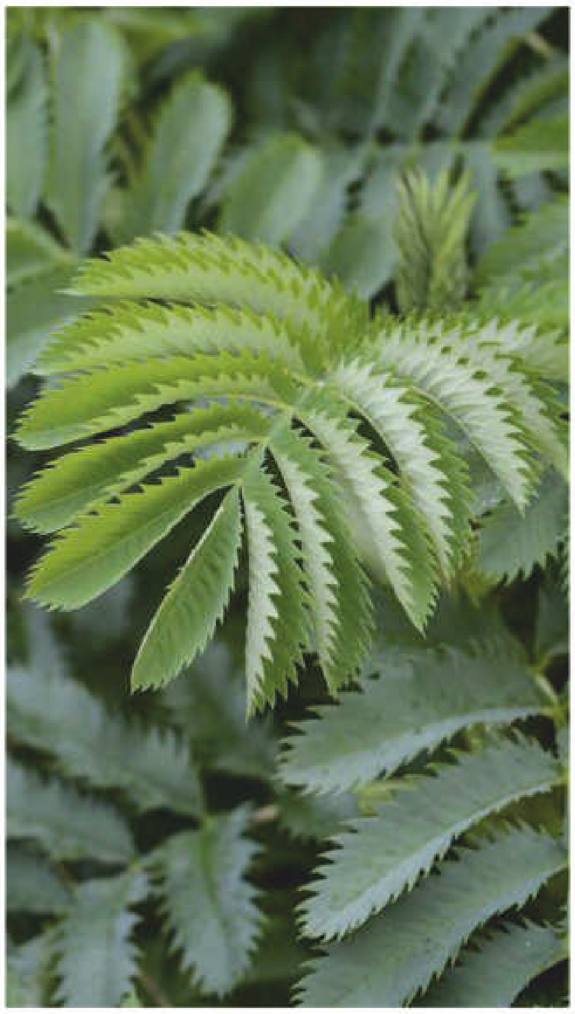
I picked a hardy fuchsia with similar non-blousy flowers in my August selections, so I was a little reluctant to choose another this month. However, it is hard to resist the charms of this quietly beautiful plant that seems to flower non-stop all summer, and still have enough in reserve to be still flowering even as the first frosts touch the ground. This is not rare and not difficult, so is usually overlooked by those for whom these things seem important, but I love it for its simple species charm and ultra-reliability. AGM.

Height 90cm-1.2m.
Origin Garden (species South America).
Conditions Well-drained soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H4, USDA 6a-10b.
Season of interest All summer into autumn.

MELIANTHUS MAJOR

Foliage plants – those for which foliage is their strongest suit – have not featured strongly in my selections up to this point, as for me, spring and summer are mostly about the joys and pleasures of flowering plants. But as autumn begins to tighten its grip and flowers start to become in ever shorter supply, other factors take precedence. And if the frosts aren't biting too early, this superlative foliage plant comes into its own. Wonderful all summer, up until the first really hard frosts, after which I prefer to cut it to the ground. It will benefit from being given a protective mulch in colder areas. AGM.

Height 1.2-2m.
Origin South Africa.
Conditions Well-drained soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H3, USDA 8a-11.
Season of interest Summer into autumn.



Places to visit

Recommended places to see seasonal plants at their best*

* Be sure to check opening times and advice on possible travel restrictions in advance

When I was at school, an annual treat around October half term was to visit **Westonbirt, The National Arboretum** in Gloucestershire to soak up the autumn colours, in particular of the Japanese maples in the Acer Glade. With the changing patterns in our weather nowadays it is likely to be closer to the end of the month when the autumn colour is at its best, but the intervening years will not have diminished the visual extravagance of the colours on show. For most of us, used to the scale of trees in our gardens, the size of many of the trees is overwhelming and rather humbling. Westonbirt, Tetbury, Gloucestershire GL8 8QS. Tel 0300 067 4890, forestryengland.uk

If Westonbirt was a treat for the maple-lover in me, on the other side of the country at **Sheffield Park & Garden** near Uckfield in East Sussex, it was the *Nyssa sylvatica*, or tupelo trees, that were the star attraction in the autumn. With more than 400 planted, they constitute the biggest planting of nyssas on one site anywhere in the country. In full autumn colour, with their upright habit and rather pendulous branch structure they form an unforgettable sight, especially when reflected in the lake. To see them this year, as at most National Trust properties, you will need to book your visit by 3pm the day before. Sheffield Park, Uckfield, East Sussex TN22 3QX. Tel 01825 790231, nationaltrust.org.uk

Another woodland garden that is good to ▷

CHRYSANTHEMUM 'RUBY MOUND'

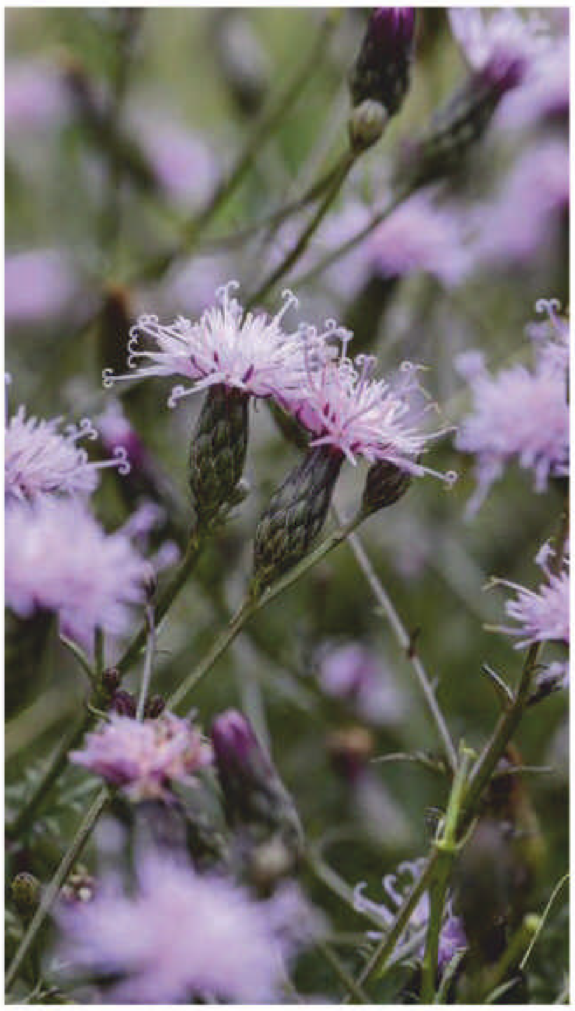
In my horticultural innocence as a young man, I assumed all chrysanthemums to be tender, greenhouse plants, that were grown as a cut-flower crop. It was a pleasant surprise to discover there are some that are very happy to grow and survive out in the open garden. Among those that we subsequently grew, this cultivar remains one of my favourites. Cut sprays to enjoy inside if the weather is cold outside, as it does make a wonderful cut flower. However, it only scores five out of ten for reliability and longevity as it is not a fan of long wet winters. AGM.

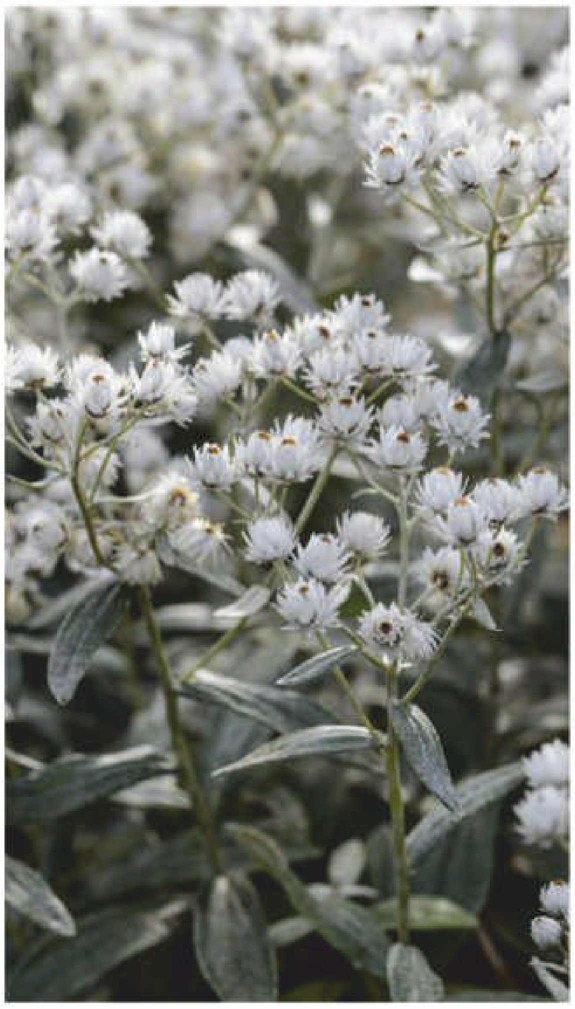
Height 80-90cm.
Origin Garden (species East Asia).
Conditions Well-drained soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H6, USDA 5a-9b.
Season of interest Autumn.

SERRATULA TINCTORIA VAR *SEOANEI*

A plant of quiet charm is often nurseryman-speak for hardly worth growing. Not so in this case, where it applies to a plant with many attributes. Making a neat, almost impenetrable clump of dark-green, finely dissected leaves, it becomes covered in masses of small, lavender-pink pincushion flowers in autumn. Resist the temptation to remove spent flowers, as after they have dried out through the following months, these dried flowerheads develop into lovely golden-buff-coloured seedheads– a welcome treat at the end of winter.

Height 30-40cm.
Origin Northern Portugal and Spain, southwest France.
Conditions Well-drained soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H6, USDA 6a-9b.
Season of interest Autumn for flowers.





ANAPHALIS MARGARITACEA 'NEUSCHNEE'

Another of the less flamboyant, easily overlooked plants, that year after year keeps on quietly contributing as a foil for more colourful neighbours with very little attention paid to them. This one makes a compact clump of grey foliage, which from July onwards is topped by sprays of small, papery white flowerheads that last for months. Lovely as a contrast for grey and purple-leaved sedums, and the smaller red fuchsias and blue agapanthus. This cultivar is more compact than species.

Height 30cm.
Origin Garden (species Himalayas).
Conditions Well-drained soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H6, USDA 5a-9b.
Season of interest Late summer to autumn for flowers.

▷ explore at this time of year is **Exbury Gardens** in Hampshire. Created in 1919 by Lionel de Rothschild, Exbury Gardens has some fine woodlands to explore where you can find several magnificent cedars of Lebanon, planted in the 18th century, and a staggeringly tall *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, one the giant redwoods more commonly associated with the US Pacific Coast. However, a visit to Exbury in October is not just a chance to explore the autumnal woodlands, but also to see the gardens' collection of rare nerines, many of them developed and hybridised by Lionel de Rothschild in the 1920s and 1930s. In the 1970s the collection was largely acquired by the late Sir Peter Smithers, but returned to Exbury in 1995, where Lionel's grandson, Nicholas de Rothschild, has carried on the tradition of developing new forms. Exbury, Southampton, Hampshire SO45 1AZ. Tel 023 8089 1203, exbury.co.uk

If you want to see how spectacular hardy chrysanthemums can look in a garden setting, and you happen to be in the Netherlands this autumn, then there are few better settings than the excellent **Kwekerij De Hessenhof** where plantsman Hans Kramer has been breeding these colourful plants for several years. Hessenweg 41, 6718 TC Ede, the Netherlands. Tel +31 (0)318 617 334, hessenhof.nl

Closer to home you will also find a good selection of chrysanthemums at **Hill Close Gardens**, which holds part of the Chrysanthemum National Collection. These gardens in the centre of Warwick, offer a rare opportunity to visit 16 hedged Victorian pleasure gardens that have been carefully restored using many plants that would have been seen here in the gardens' heyday. Bread and Meat Close, Warwick CV34 6HF. Tel 01926 493339, hillclosegardens.com

SIA
ecodesign
ready
A

Stovax Chesterfield 5 Wide Wood & Multi-fuel Stove

Firing imaginations for over 37 years

WOODBURNING | GAS MULTI-FUEL | ELECTRIC

STOVAX GAZCO

www.stovax.com

HARD LESSONS

Temperatures may be dropping but Aaron advises growing plants hard as a bit of harsh treatment now will give you stronger, healthier plants that will be able to spring back into growth more quickly next year

WORDS **AARON BERTELSEN**
ILLUSTRATION **ALICE PATTULLO**

POTA
ROAST tomato SAUCE (OCT)

As someone who works outside a lot, I am very much aware of the changes in our climate. One of the things I notice most is how much the growing season has extended. Very often now the weather in October is extremely mild, particularly at the start of the month. Tomatoes, courgettes and squashes will continue to ripen and there is still time to plant out lettuce seedlings into pots and have them put on a decent amount of growth before the season ends.

Generally, October is one of the few months when you can afford to relax. A little harvesting and a little tidying up is about as strenuous as it gets. Even later in the month, the threat of frost is fairly minimal these days. And if you've followed the advice in last month's column and prepared a spot to shelter your tender plants you will have nothing to fear from a cold snap.

If temperatures do start to drop, particularly overnight, I would urge you not to rush to put things under cover. I like to wait until it is really necessary before I put plants away for the winter. Parsley, rocket, chard, sorrel even scented leaf pelargoniums all do very well left out all winter in my yard. I will just put up a hessian screen to shield from the worst if it gets particularly chilly. Growing plants hard is one of the many lessons I learned from gardening alongside Christopher Lloyd. A bit of harsh treatment results in stronger plants, less susceptible to pests and diseases and quicker to spring back into growth when the weather warms. ❐

Jobs for October

While it's still mild enough to enjoy being outside, take the opportunity to do a bit of tidying up. Remove yellowing or damaged leaves from brassicas, which will reduce the risk of fungal disease and deprive slugs and snails of a home. You should also take out and compost any crops that have gone over so the soil is ready for winter digging or mulching.

Any potatoes that are still in the ground should be lifted and allowed to dry out before being stored. Choose a time when the forecast is good for a couple of days and leave them spread out on hessian on the open ground. You will know when they are ready when the soil falls off easily, leaving them clean. Pack them away in paper bags or hessian sacks and check after a week or so to make sure none are rotting.

If the weather is warm there is still time – just – to sow winter salad crops in pots, provided you do it right at the start of the month and can offer a reasonably sheltered spot. Let the weeds be your guide – if they're still growing, seeds should still germinate. Cover with fleece at night to help them along.

Plant strawberries. I love the smaller, more fragrant wild or alpine strawberries and find them great around the base of larger pots or places where other things struggle to grow.

If you are planning to force chicory (you'll need a Witloof type for this), dig up plants and pot them up. Cut off the tops and pack the plants into a large pot with a light soil/sand mix. Cover, and put the pot somewhere dark, cool and dry.

If you have pots of herbs, such as thyme and rosemary, move them closer to a wall or the house to give a little extra shelter. I put stakes in the pots so that if the weather is harsh I can easily pop a little hessian or fleece tent over them.

Mulching around plants such as rhubarb and soft fruit will help to feed them as well as providing winter protection. I add a 10cm layer of leaf mould, or compost from the heap.

Check that stakes for fruit trees are still strong. Replace them if necessary and in any case replace the twine. This will ensure trees are well supported before winter winds hit.

WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR CROPS

October is the perfect time to harvest winter squashes and pumpkins. Keep an eye on the forecast – you want to strike a balance between leaving them outside to ripen for as long as possible while avoiding any risk of frost. While there are still other crops around though I tend to just enjoy looking at them and admiring their amazing colours and shapes. The eating can wait…

You will be picking the last of the tomatoes now too. If I can resist the temptation just to eat them as they are, or put them in a simple tomato tart, I like to freeze them ready to add a little pep to winter soups, stews and sauces. I either freeze the individual fruits – just slide them on a baking sheet into the freezer and tip them into a bag once they are frozen solid – or make a simple roasted tomato sauce and freeze in small bags.

In this season of mists and mellow fruitfulness though, it is hard to look past apples and pears when it comes to choosing a recipe for the month. If you are lucky and have a really good crop you will need to think about storage. Wrap each individual fruit in newspaper and keep somewhere cool, dry and away from rodents and other interested parties. If you are inclined to cook, though, I can't think of anything better than a simple baked apple, best served with my favourite accompaniment, lashings of double cream.

You can find Aaron's delicious recipe for baked apple at gardensillustrated.com/recipes

GARDENING TALENT

MATTHEW OLIVER

Researching and growing interesting edible plants from around the world is at the heart of Matthew's role as head of RHS Hyde Hall's Global Growth Vegetable Garden

PORTRAIT ANDREW MONTGOMERY

First plant love Probably antirrhinums. Our garden was full of bedding plants grown from seed and I remember picking the flowers off and squeezing the sides together to see why they got their snapdragon common name. Foxgloves featured heavily too and I was fascinated to watch bees disappear into the flowers.

Who has inspired your career? I would say my grandparents, who lived round the block from where I grew up. Their garden was always a complete jungle so it doubled up as both a playground and somewhere you could cut your teeth as gardener and make mistakes without consequence. They were the ones who had no qualms about telling me I should go for horticulture as a career. They saw it as a proper, skilled trade and a 'real' reason to go to college/university.

Most valuable training My year as a student at Hyde Hall. I did it as a practical year during my degree at Writtle University College. Working alongside other professional gardeners in a setting where the consequences really mattered was eye opening.

Dream plant destination To go back in time to a working Victorian- or Edwardian-era walled garden to see if the horticultural standards really were as good as the history books say. I'd really like to have a crack at growing pineapples in hot beds.

Favourite planting style Formal. Straight lines. Neat and tidy. Gardening for me is about the process, so I just run with the fact that anything I do is controlling and manipulating what nature intends and tend not to be shy about it.

Biggest challenge facing gardeners Climate change. I can handle hot summers and find plants to grow in it, but having winters devoid of frost days is a truly frightening prospect for a fruit and veg gardener. Frost helps knock back garden pests and some fruit crops need vernalisation [period of cold] for their buds to ensure a good crop the following year.

Favourite gardening podcasts Through lockdown I was invited to be on a couple of podcasts, which got me listening to them on a more regular basis. *This Week in the Garden* with Peter Seabrook is very listenable. He uses all of his many contacts and experience to get a wide range of knowledgeable guests.

Contact matthewoliver@rhs.org.uk
Find out more about the Global Growth Vegetable Garden at hydehall@rhs.org.uk

> Anything I do is controlling and manipulating what nature intends

Gloves for people serious
about Gardening

The World's Finest Gardening Gloves

Superior Deerskin Gardening Gloves by GOLD LEAF

NOTHING COMPARES!

Endorsed by

RHS
Inspiring everyone to grow

Telephone: +44 (0)23 8040 2025 Website: www.goldleaf-gloves.com

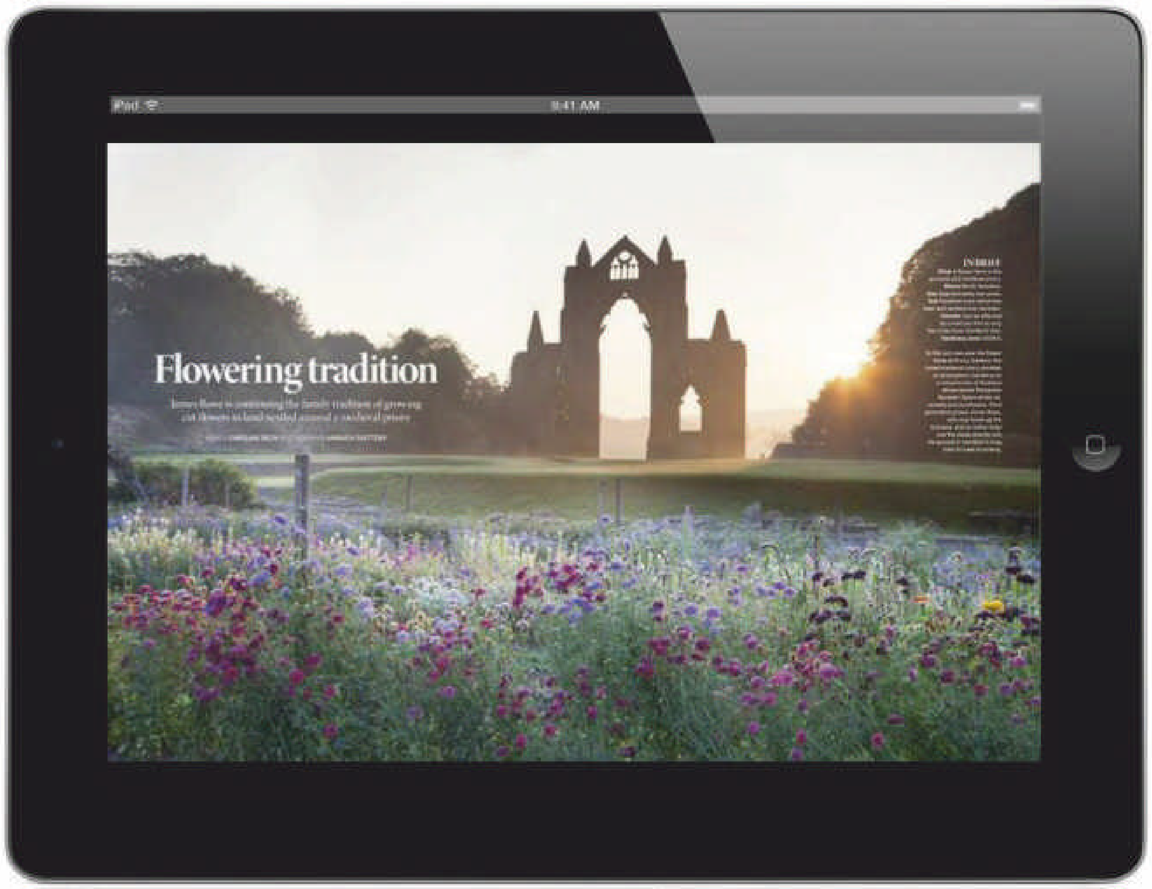
DISCOVER • REVIEW • SHARE

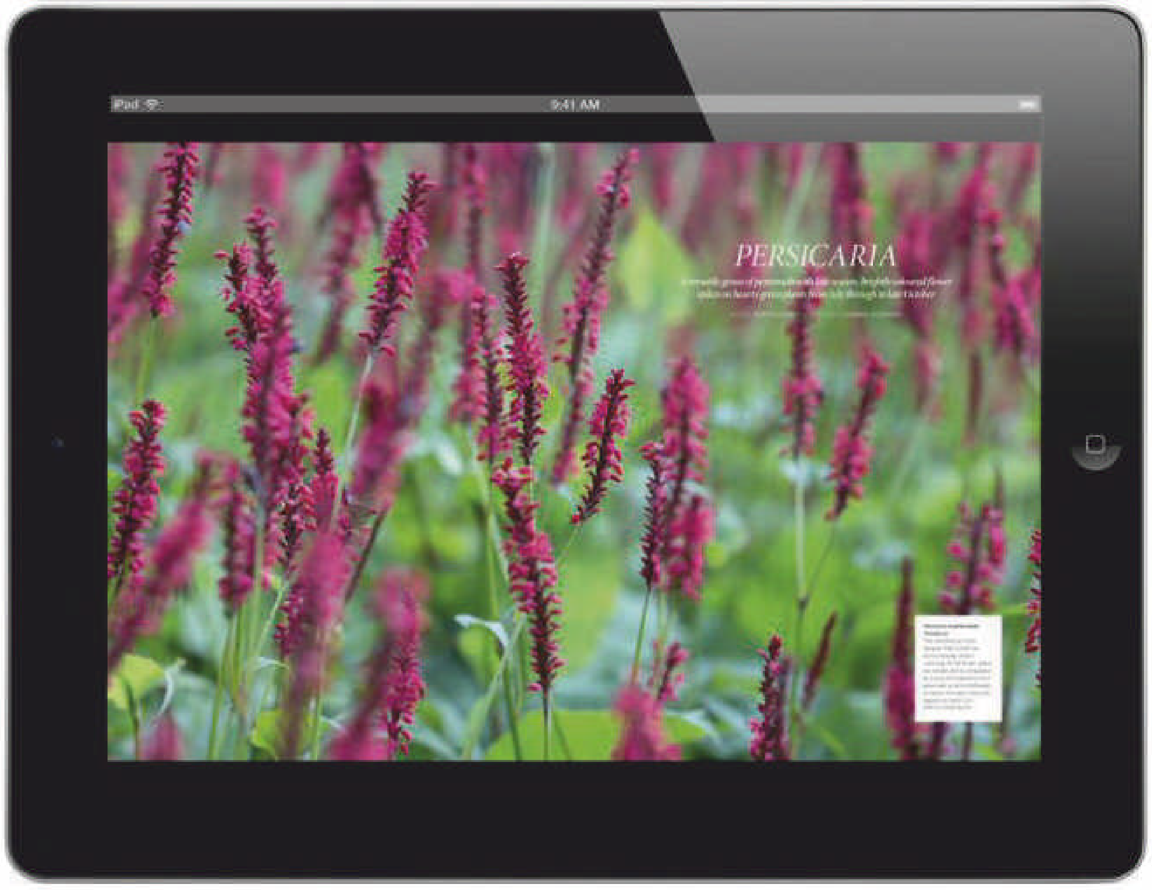
GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED

Save when you subscribe to the digital edition

PLANTING IDEAS • BEAUTIFUL GARDENS • EXPERT ADVICE
GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED
Grow beautiful bulbs for pollinators
HOW TO PROPAGATE FERNS
A RURAL GARDEN
where contemporary cool meets pop-tastic colour
Stylish ideas for DISPLAYING HOUSEPLANTS
British cut flowers
THE WILDLIFE GARDEN
with a West Coast vibe

October plants


Flowering tradition


PERSICARIA

A must-have read for passionate gardeners, *Gardens Illustrated* magazine provides a unique insight into the world's most beautiful gardens, expert advice and planting ideas.

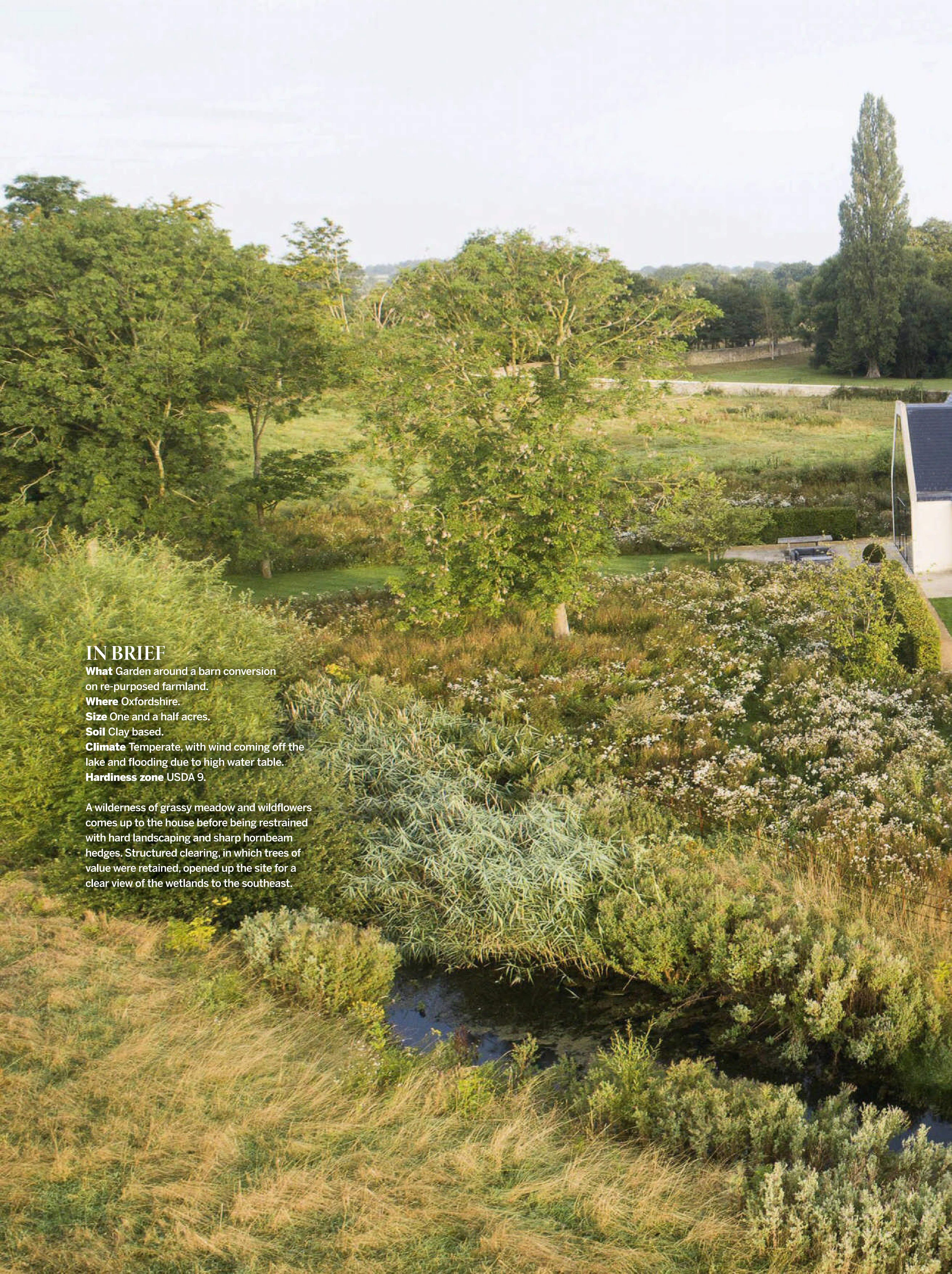
ENJOY OUR PREMIUM APP EXPERIENCE NOW

buysubscriptions.com/
gardensillustrated

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google play

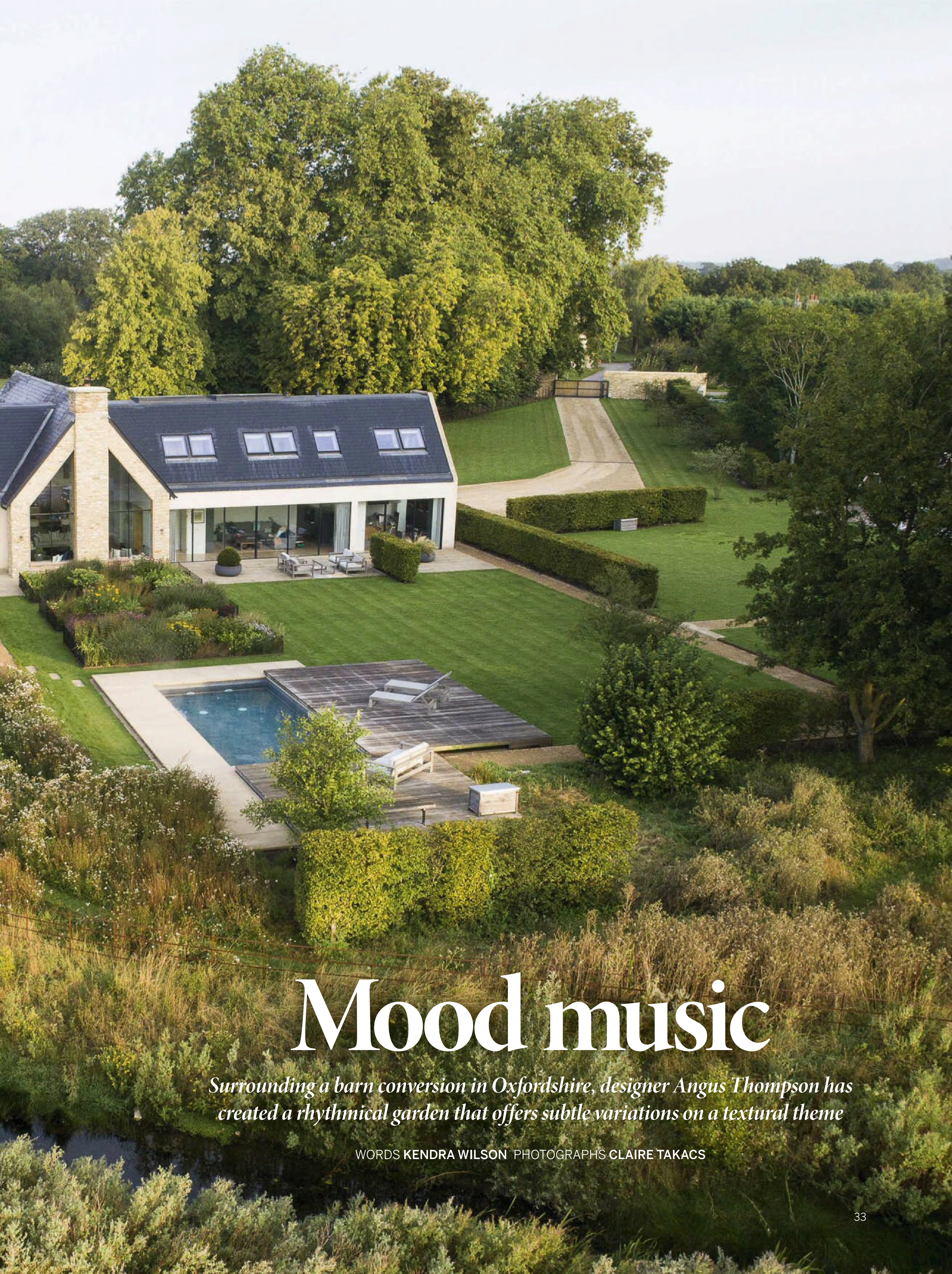
amazon apps Available on kindle fire



IN BRIEF

What Garden around a barn conversion on re-purposed farmland.
Where Oxfordshire.
Size One and a half acres.
Soil Clay based.
Climate Temperate, with wind coming off the lake and flooding due to high water table.
Hardiness zone USDA 9.

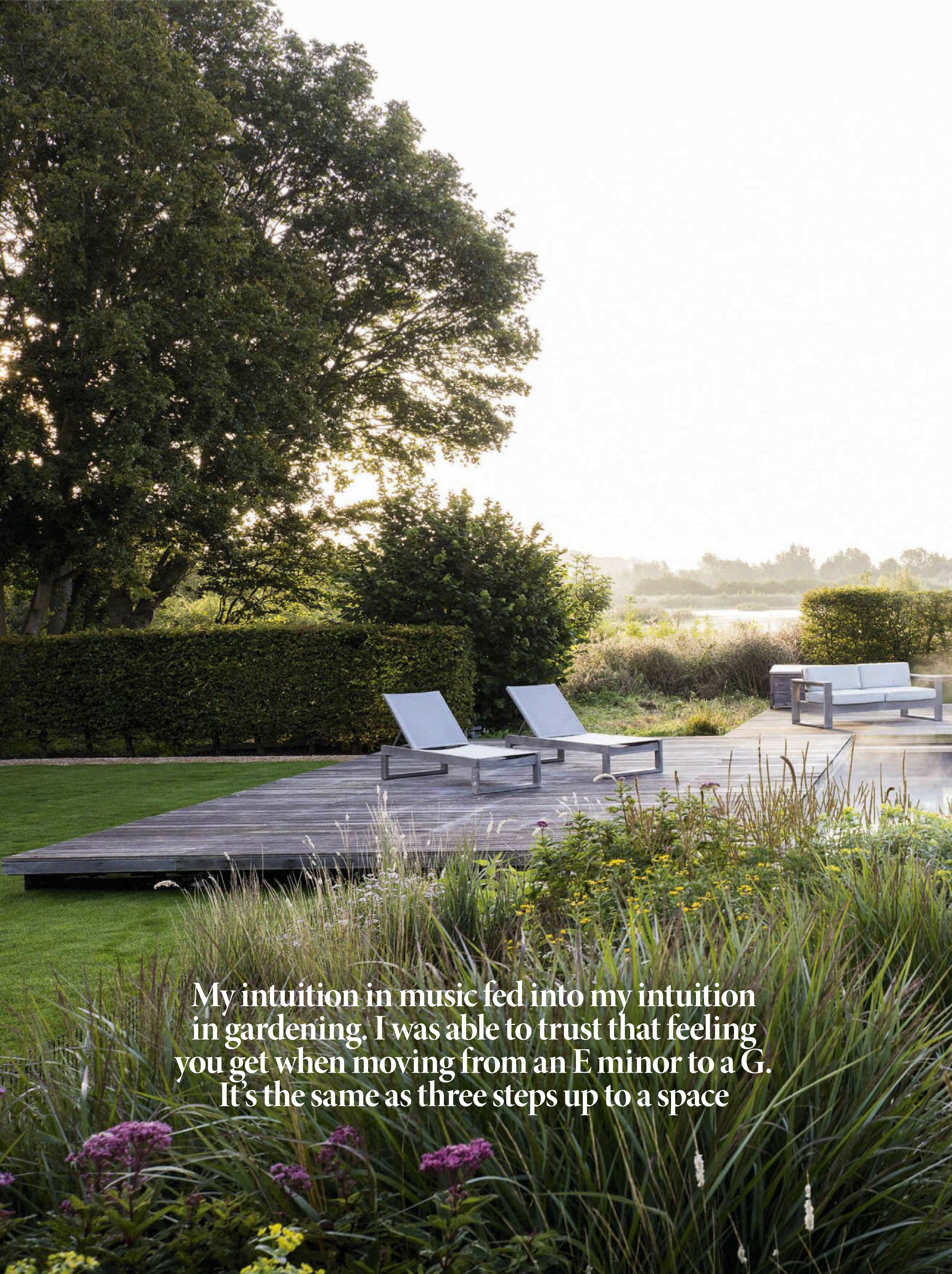
A wilderness of grassy meadow and wildflowers comes up to the house before being restrained with hard landscaping and sharp hornbeam hedges. Structured clearing, in which trees of value were retained, opened up the site for a clear view of the wetlands to the southeast.



Mood music

Surrounding a barn conversion in Oxfordshire, designer Angus Thompson has created a rhythmical garden that offers subtle variations on a textural theme

WORDS **KENDRA WILSON** PHOTOGRAPHS **CLAIRE TAKACS**



My intuition in music fed into my intuition in gardening. I was able to trust that feeling you get when moving from an E minor to a G. It's the same as three steps up to a space

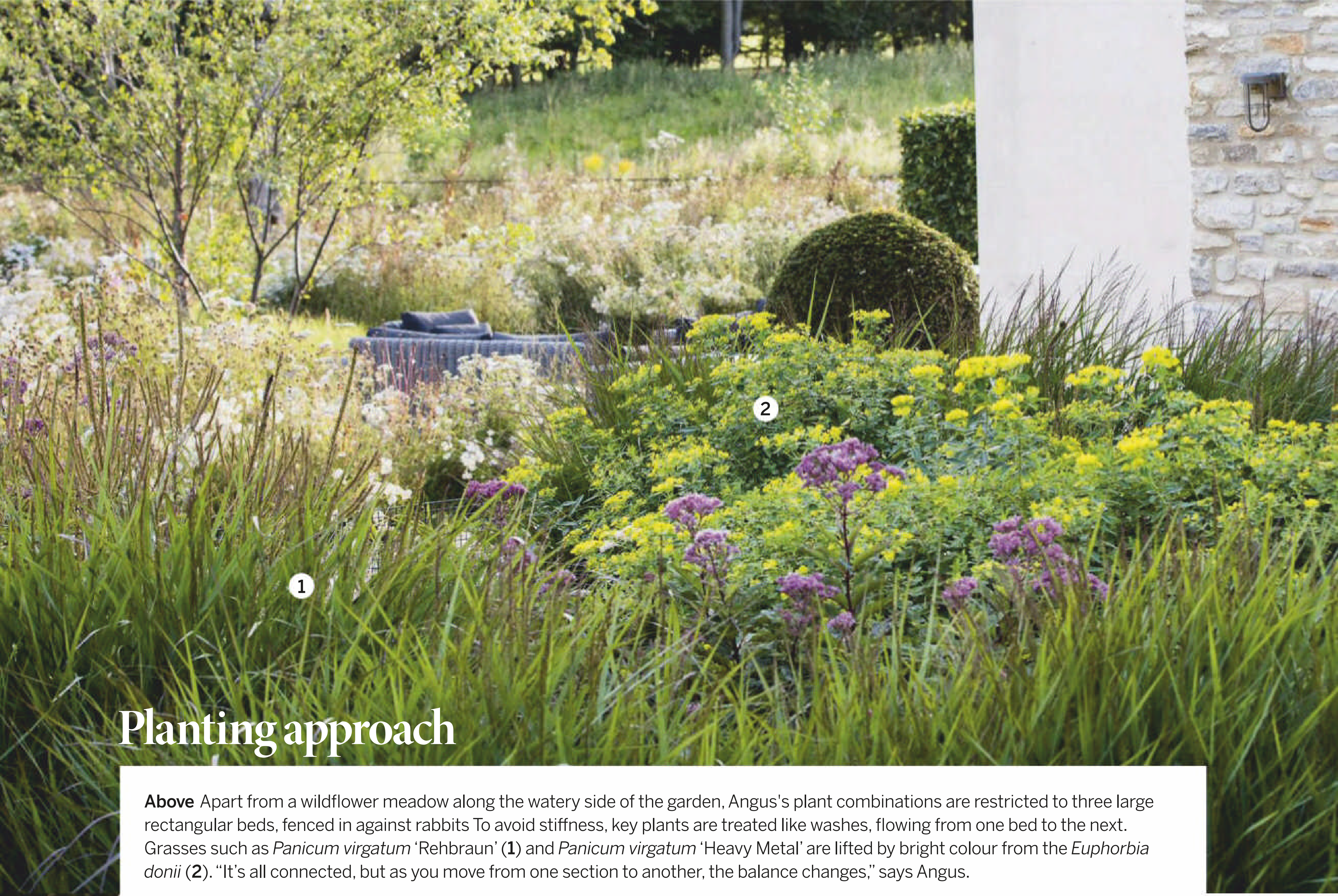
Etched into a big-sky landscape of marsh, meadow and neatly clipped lawn, the setting could be mistaken for East Hampton, on New York's Long Island. Teeming with birds, the reeds and willows of the nearby lake merge into a fluffy yet robust meadow, bisected with winding paths. Closer to the house, flowers that are bolder and brighter stand tall against the super-sized volumes of the new build. This is not the USA but Oxfordshire, the sequestered house hidden on land that is post-agricultural, with a view that is post-industrial. The core of the building, a former dairy barn listed in the Domesday Book, makes a T-junction with the larger addition: while it looks uncompromisingly modern, the new house is anchored on English land that has been farmed for millennia. The soil here is clay based, yet wonderfully free-draining, which explains the presence of the nearby gravel pit – that was only recently filled with water and restored to the natural landscape as a reserve.

Having endured a brief spell as commercial units, the old barn was requisitioned by the farm-owning family, and a re-imagined structure was built in tandem with its garden. Architects WGP called in Oxford-based landscape designer Angus Thompson, with whom they have had several happy collaborations. Angus is sanguine in recalling the building process; the clients were decisive and the project progressed with a notable alacrity, given the complications of the site.

The first challenge was rabbits. As the garden relaxes in the half light of dawn or dusk, 30 to 40 white tails can be seen at a glance, while a rear guard of squirrels makes sure that the dream of spring bulbs under trees will never be realised. In response, Angus designed flower beds, secured behind barriers of Corten steel, sunk into underground shoulders of concrete. The high-security fencing is topped with a rusted steel mesh that reaches to knee height. Abundant perennials disguise their underpinnings as the season progresses. The rabbits should be acknowledged for their part in the garden's layout; the rectangular beds, bursting with texture and spots of intense colour, extend the axis from the house toward the swimming pool. Although the uncompromising lines of the

To continue turn to page 38

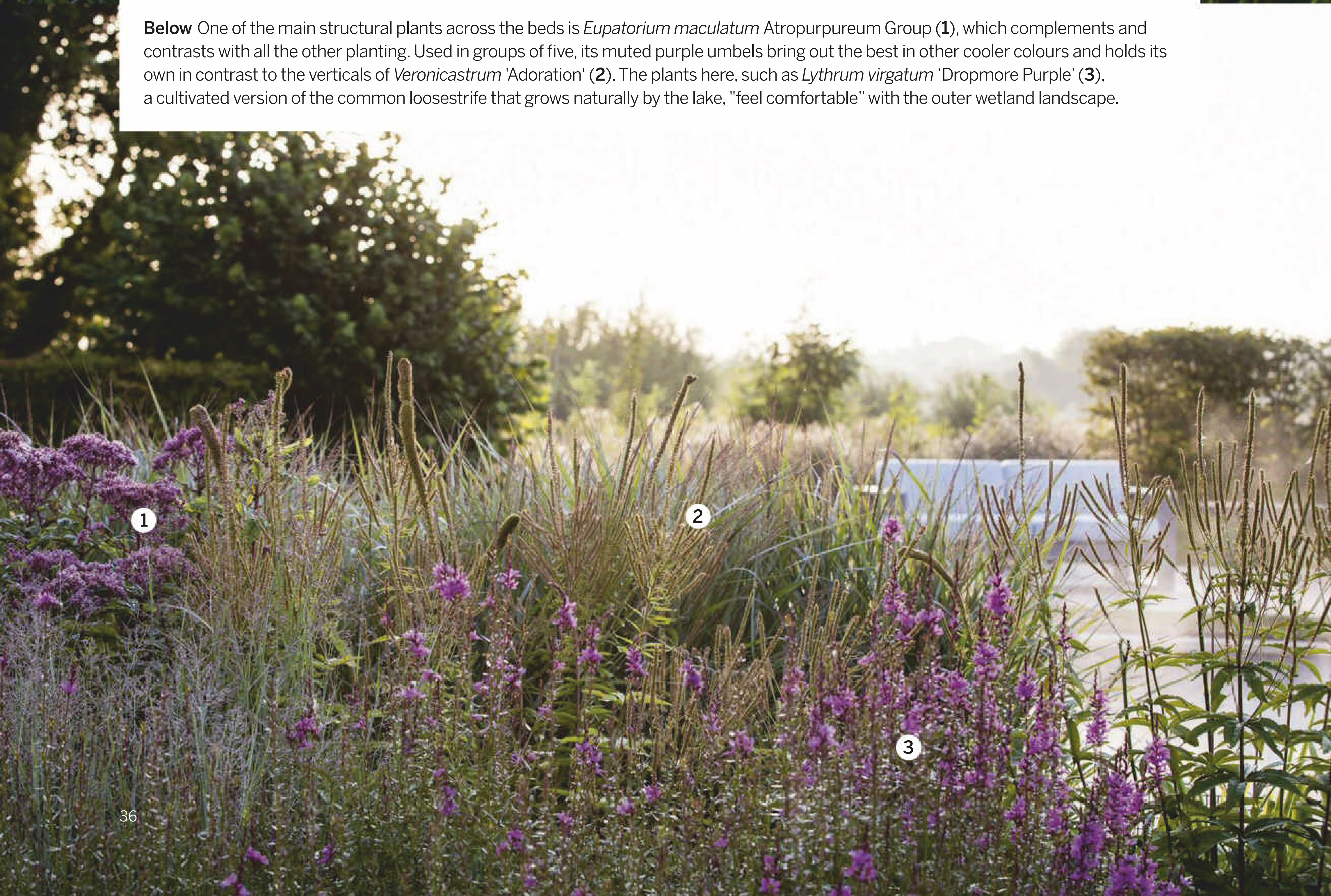
Lines of perspective direct the eye from three flowing rectangles of perennials towards the swimming pool and an identically sized rectangle beyond. This contains a simple planting of *Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Hameln' and one of three river birches (*Betula nigra*) that Angus was excited to add to the site.

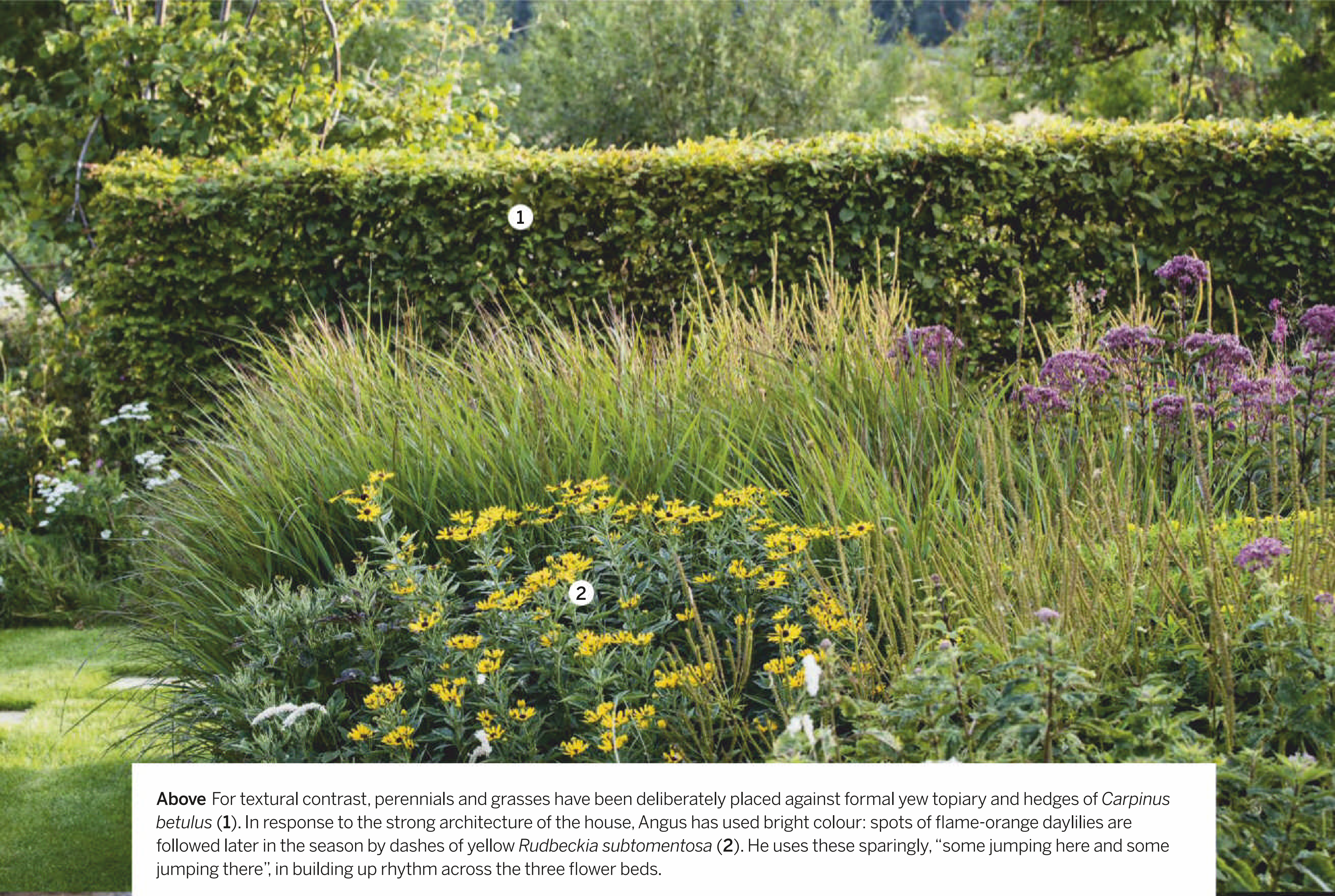


Planting approach

Above Apart from a wildflower meadow along the watery side of the garden, Angus's plant combinations are restricted to three large rectangular beds, fenced in against rabbits To avoid stiffness, key plants are treated like washes, flowing from one bed to the next. Grasses such as *Panicum virgatum* 'Rehbraun' (**1**) and *Panicum virgatum* 'Heavy Metal' are lifted by bright colour from the *Euphorbia donii* (**2**). "It's all connected, but as you move from one section to another, the balance changes," says Angus.

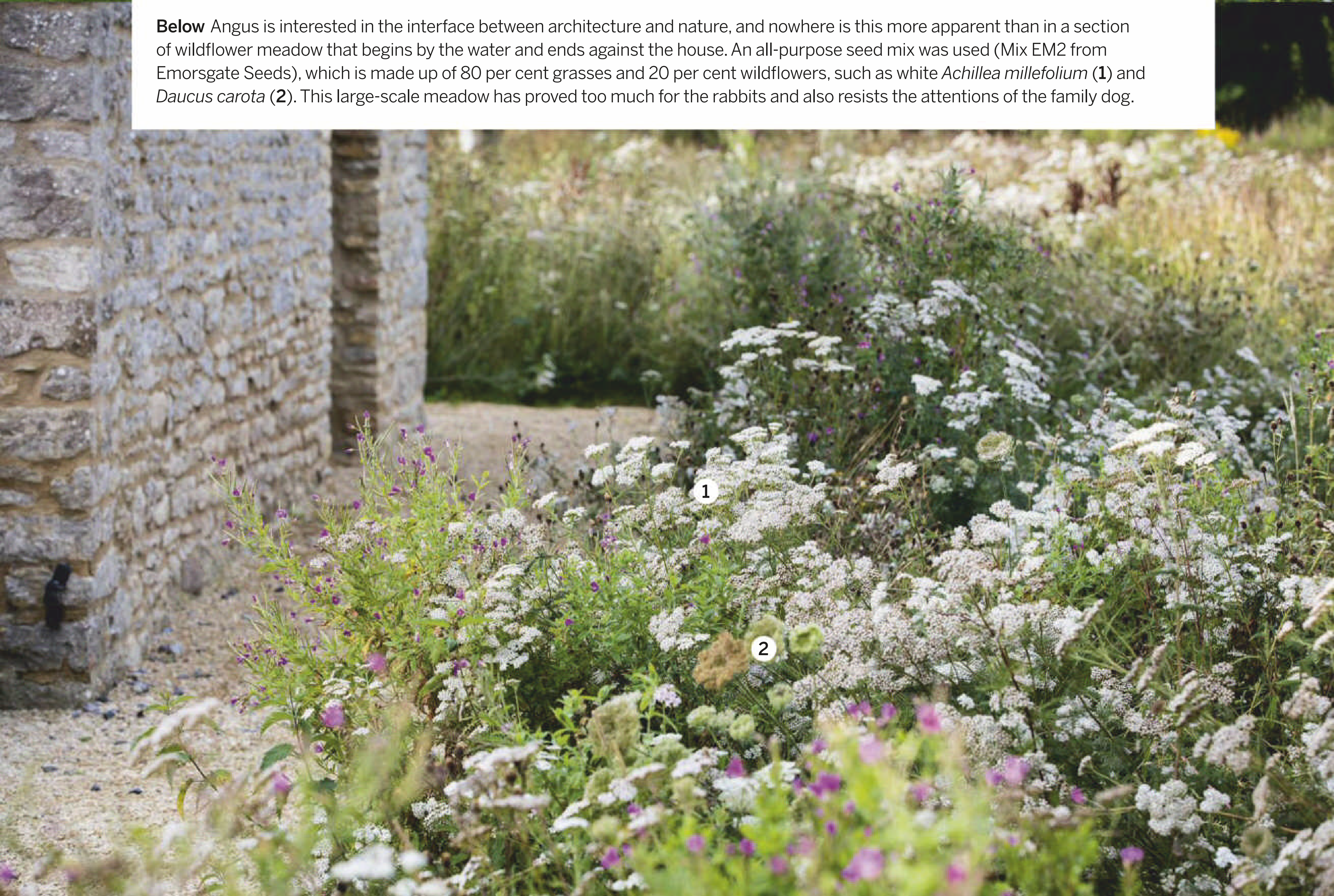
Below One of the main structural plants across the beds is *Eupatorium maculatum* Atropurpureum Group (**1**), which complements and contrasts with all the other planting. Used in groups of five, its muted purple umbels bring out the best in other cooler colours and holds its own in contrast to the verticals of *Veronicastrum* 'Adoration' (**2**). The plants here, such as *Lythrum virgatum* 'Dropmore Purple' (**3**), a cultivated version of the common loosestrife that grows naturally by the lake, "feel comfortable" with the outer wetland landscape.





Above For textural contrast, perennials and grasses have been deliberately placed against formal yew topiary and hedges of *Carpinus betulus* (**1**). In response to the strong architecture of the house, Angus has used bright colour: spots of flame-orange daylilies are followed later in the season by dashes of yellow *Rudbeckia subtomentosa* (**2**). He uses these sparingly, "some jumping here and some jumping there", in building up rhythm across the three flower beds.

Below Angus is interested in the interface between architecture and nature, and nowhere is this more apparent than in a section of wildflower meadow that begins by the water and ends against the house. An all-purpose seed mix was used (Mix EM2 from Emorsgate Seeds), which is made up of 80 per cent grasses and 20 per cent wildflowers, such as white *Achillea millefolium* (**1**) and *Daucus carota* (**2**). This large-scale meadow has proved too much for the rabbits and also resists the attentions of the family dog.



house prompted a strong design response, it is the interplay between architecture and "gardening in the wild" that really interests Angus. "I enjoy bringing in the outside and putting it into a more formal structure," he says.

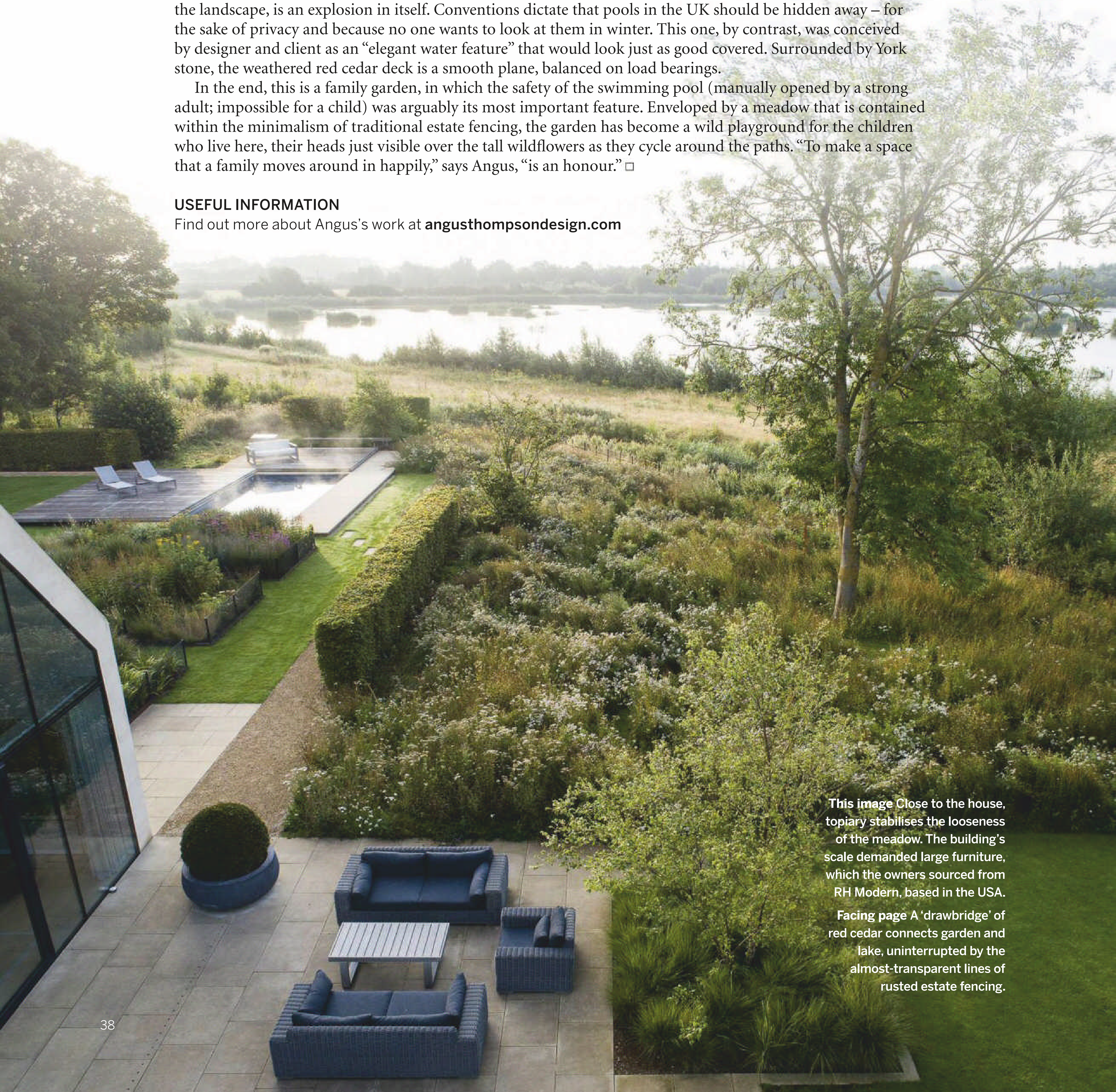
Angus is able to riff on this dynamic, through his music background. Before enrolling on a garden design course at Inchbald in London, he was a full-time working musician. Angus has found that the two disciplines are not unconnected: "I found that my intuition in music fed into my intuition in gardening," he says. "I was able to trust that feeling you get when moving from an E minor to a G. It's the same as three steps up to a space."

Faced with three large rectangles to fill, Angus began with a base rhythm of grasses, planted in fives. *Panicum virgatum* 'Rehbraun' and *Panicum virgatum* 'Heavy Metal' provide the structure, placed in ovals that run at 45-degree angles across the whole space. Key players then build on this rhythm; namely *Eupatorium maculatum* Atropurpureum Group and *Sanguisorba* 'Blackthorn', planted in threes and fives. Incidentals of *Veronicastrum* 'Adoration' are scattered through, like bulbs that have been thrown in the air and planted where they land.

The whole garden is planned along strict lines that Angus has then shifted. Long hornbeam hedges end suddenly, opening up different views and freeing movement, while also providing a sense of enclosure. "I start with something that is very logical and then allow it, like a Catherine wheel, to be disturbed," Angus says. "I like explosion." The siting of the swimming pool, in plain view of the house and with uninterrupted views over the landscape, is an explosion in itself. Conventions dictate that pools in the UK should be hidden away – for the sake of privacy and because no one wants to look at them in winter. This one, by contrast, was conceived by designer and client as an "elegant water feature" that would look just as good covered. Surrounded by York stone, the weathered red cedar deck is a smooth plane, balanced on load bearings.

In the end, this is a family garden, in which the safety of the swimming pool (manually opened by a strong adult; impossible for a child) was arguably its most important feature. Enveloped by a meadow that is contained within the minimalism of traditional estate fencing, the garden has become a wild playground for the children who live here, their heads just visible over the tall wildflowers as they cycle around the paths. "To make a space that a family moves around in happily," says Angus, "is an honour." □

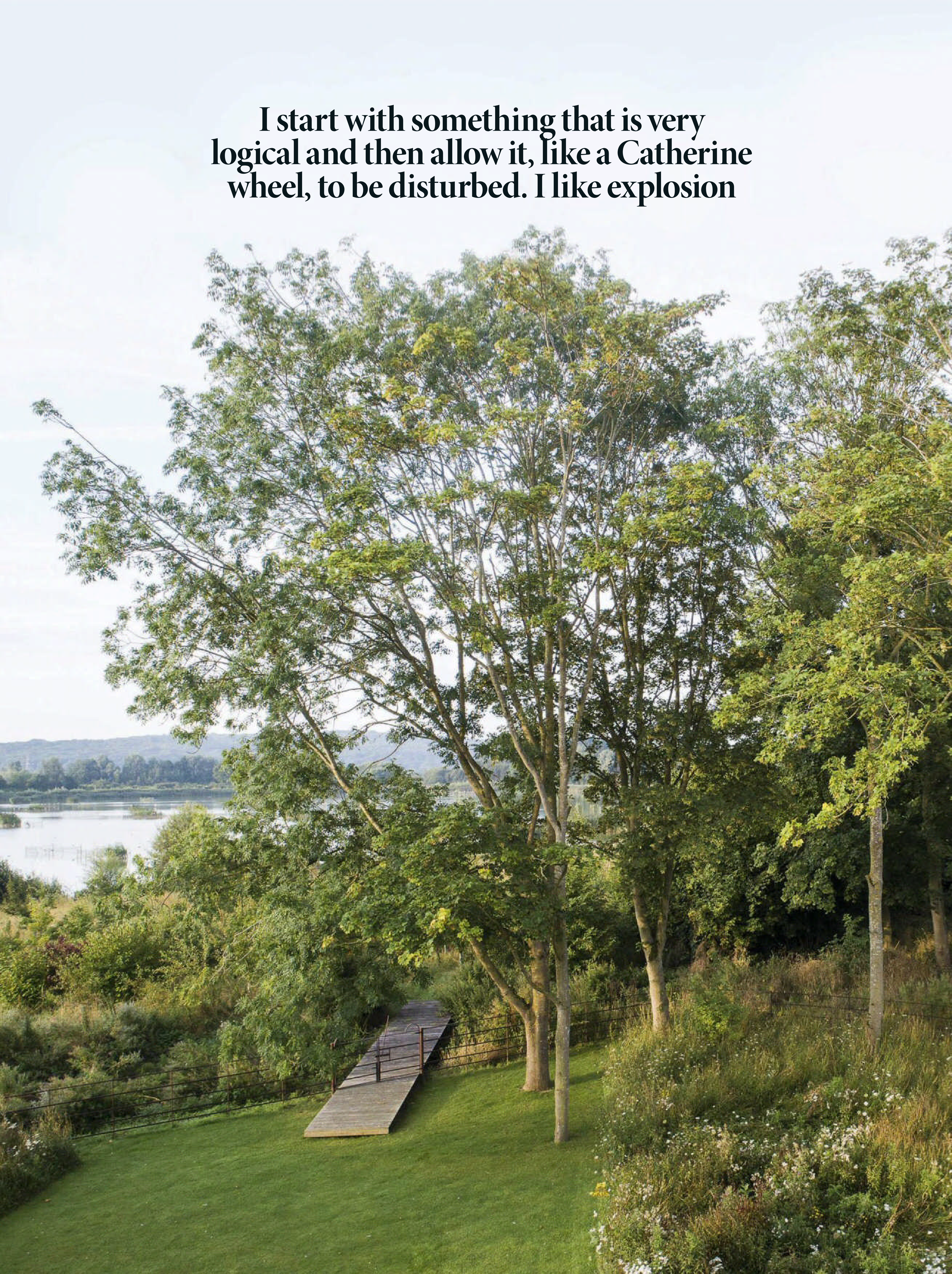
USEFUL INFORMATION
Find out more about Angus's work at **angusthompsondesign.com**

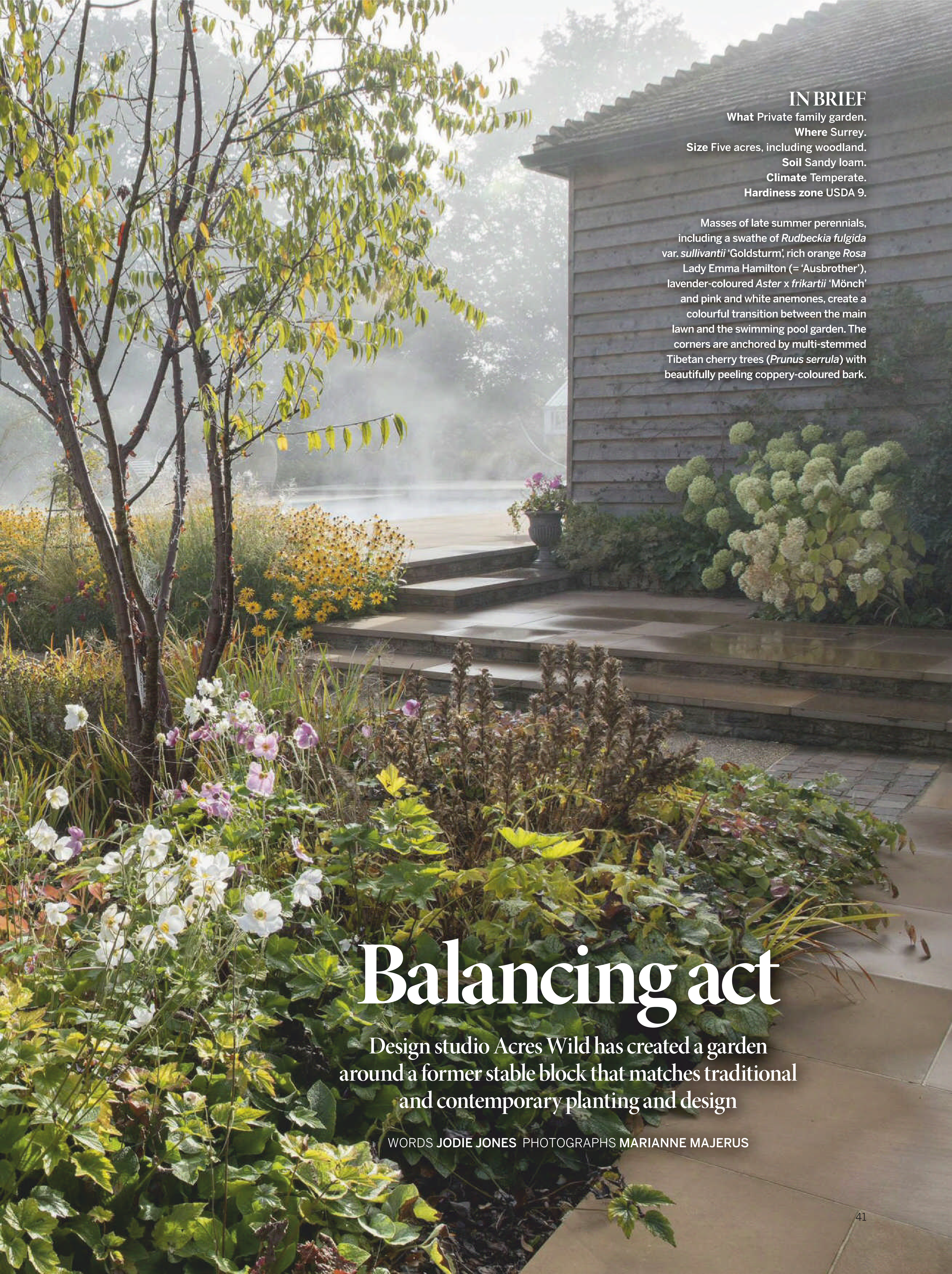


This image Close to the house, topiary stabilises the looseness of the meadow. The building's scale demanded large furniture, which the owners sourced from RH Modern, based in the USA.

Facing page A 'drawbridge' of red cedar connects garden and lake, uninterrupted by the almost-transparent lines of rusted estate fencing.

I start with something that is very logical and then allow it, like a Catherine wheel, to be disturbed. I like explosion





IN BRIEF

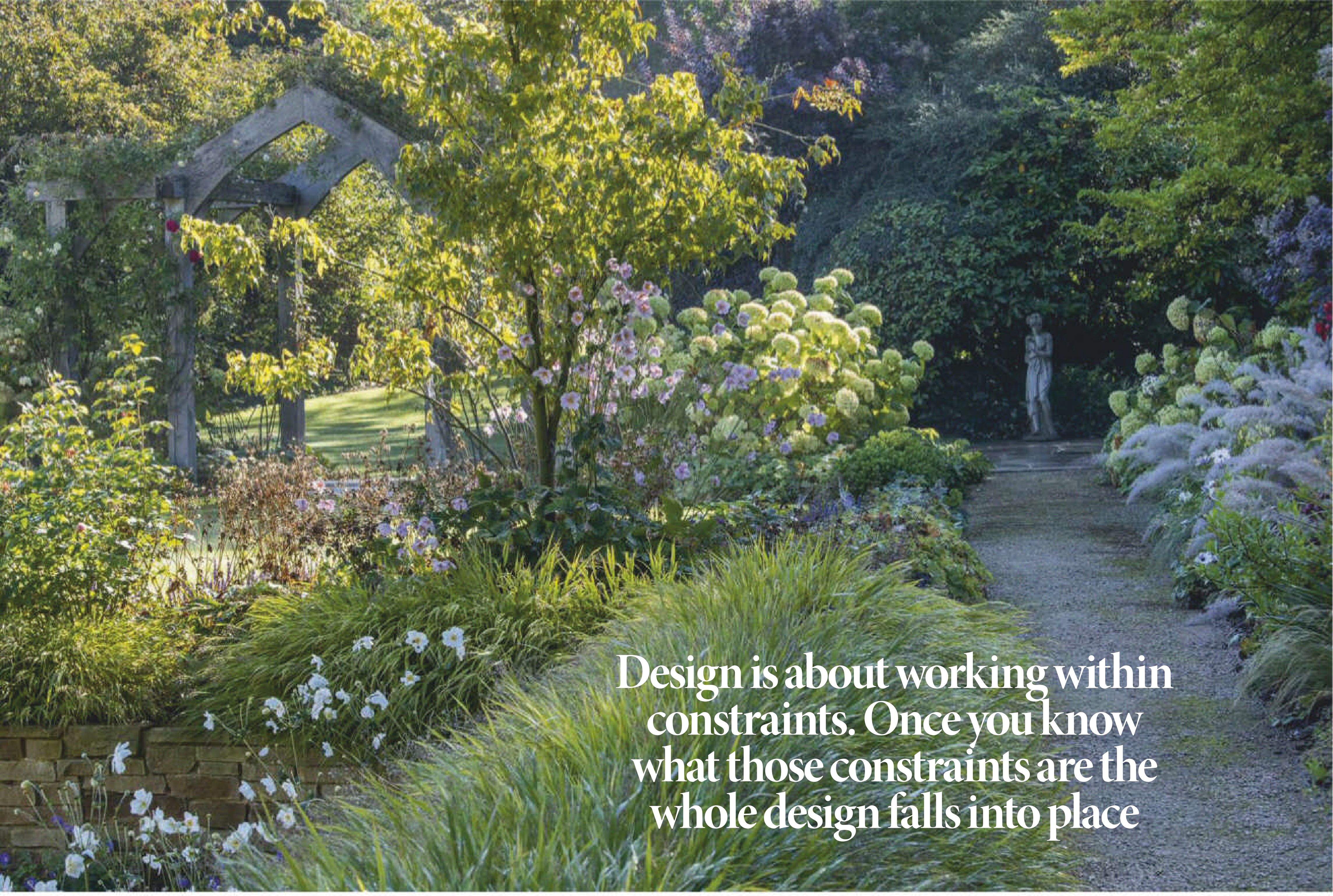
What Private family garden.
Where Surrey.
Size Five acres, including woodland.
Soil Sandy loam.
Climate Temperate.
Hardiness zone USDA 9.

Masses of late summer perennials, including a swathe of *Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *sullivantii* 'Goldsturm', rich orange *Rosa* Lady Emma Hamilton (= 'Ausbrother'), lavender-coloured *Aster* x *frikartii* 'Mönch' and pink and white anemones, create a colourful transition between the main lawn and the swimming pool garden. The corners are anchored by multi-stemmed Tibetan cherry trees (*Prunus serrula*) with beautifully peeling coppery-coloured bark.

Balancing act

Design studio Acres Wild has created a garden around a former stable block that matches traditional and contemporary planting and design

WORDS **JODIE JONES** PHOTOGRAPHS **MARIANNE MAJERUS**



Design is about working within constraints. Once you know what those constraints are the whole design falls into place

Building work is often the catalyst for a garden redesign and Debbie Roberts of design studio Acres Wild is used to visualising the potential within a sea of mud. The harder challenge is to create a coherent design when the garden already contains a number of established elements. The owners of this property had lived here for over 20 years and the garden was planted primarily for spring and early summer interest, with an orchard and woodland, a recently added swimming pool and a large, green-oak pool house. They had decided to reconfigure their house, a converted stable block, with a large modern extension and wanted a contemporary garden to complement their newly styled contemporary interiors. The challenge was to create a link with the wider setting and provide views over the North Downs.

"This meant creating a hierarchy of formality, from the most contemporary area adjacent to the house, softening out to the wooded boundaries over a series of gently rising levels and rationalising the position of the pool, which aligned with the boundary wall but nothing else," says Debbie. Having trained as a landscape architect, Debbie is more sensitive than most to a lack of alignment, but she is also expert in baffling the eye. "Design is about working within constraints. Once you know what those constraints are the whole design falls into place." Today you would need a tape measure and a set square to spot the clever way she has normalised the relationship of pool to main lawn with a deep ornamental border that expands at one end to absorb the change of angle.

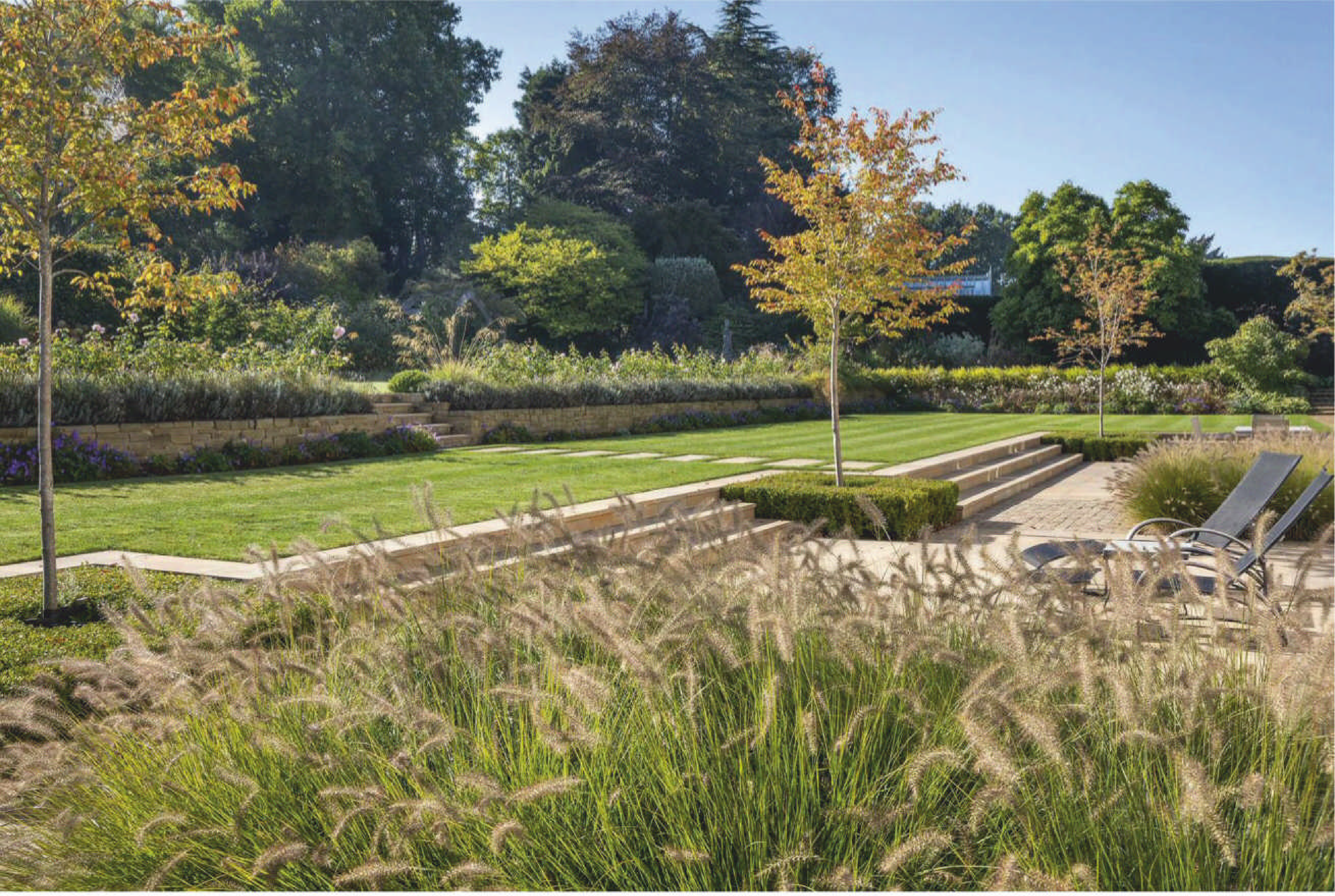
Foxing the eye even further, this border is stuffed with billowing masses of colour. A broad ribbon of golden yellow *Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *sullivantii* 'Goldsturm', masses of orange Lady Emma Hamilton roses and the lavender-petalled daisies of *Aster* x *frikartii* 'Mönch', all jostle cheerfully together. "I stick to species and cultivars that don't need expert maintenance to perform well over a long season. It is the overall effect I am interested in. As for the palette, we wanted a real party vibe around the pool, so I went all in with lots of bright colour."

This pop-tastic explosion of late summer perennials contrasts with the cooler, greener parts of the garden. "That was intentional," says Debbie. "It goes back to the concept of a hierarchy of formality. We wanted to have fun around the swimming pool but the terrace by the extension required a more restrained and contemporary polish." Using slabs, setts ▷

Above One side of a gravel path in the cooler part of the garden is awash with *Hakonechloa macra* and anemones, both pure-white *Anemone* x *hybrida* 'Honorine Jobert' and shell pink 'September Charm', while the facing bed is filled with *Miscanthus* plumes. At the end of the path, a stone figure is framed by masses of greenish white *Hydrangea arborescens* 'Annabelle'.

Right above Overlooking the swimming pool flower beds is a Victorian glasshouse that the owners had dismantled, refurbished and rebuilt in a new location, where it is now filled with ferns and provides a sheltered place in which to enjoy the evening sun.

Right below On the lowest terrace, the view is animated by layers and layers of plants. Swathes of *Pennisetum* 'Fairy Tails', *Hakonechloa macra* alongside *Rosa* Desdemona (= 'Auskindling'), *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Ferner Osten' and a multi-stemmed *Prunus serrula*, all grow on different levels, but create a single picture of beguiling depth and interest.



▷ and gravel in a warm buff stone that tones with the sandy soil, Debbie has devised a quietly clever linking sequence of paths, steps and terraces that lend a sense of inevitability to the journey between these two physical and stylistic extremes.

Closest to the new extension, the modern minimalist terrace is filled with an expanse of precision-cut paving, swathes of fluffy *Pennisetum* 'Fairy Tails' and four single-stemmed amelanchiers growing up through squares of clipped box. "This was such fun to design, working within those strict dimensions to create a perfectly tailored finish," says Debbie.

From here, broad, shallow steps lead to a simple strip of grass bisected by stepping stones, then up again to an expansive L-shaped lawn, also bisected by stepping stones. Between the two is a low wall in more of the same sandy-coloured stone, this time cut in blocks to form a contemporary interpretation of a dry stone wall, topped by a bank of *Lavandula angustifolia* 'Hidcote' and frilled with an underskirt of *Geranium* Rozanne (= 'Gerwat'). The stepping stones form not just a path to the end of the garden, but a dividing line between old and new, traditional and contemporary. To their left, you are firmly in the 21st century. Grey Manutti Zendo sofa units and a Rivelin Valencia firebowl form a lounging corner with views out over the garden wall to the rolling hills of the North Downs. A swaying curtain of *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Ferner Osten' veils this relaxation zone from the swimming pool garden glimpsed beyond.

To the right of the main lawn, a beautiful oak pergola relocated from the garden's previous iteration, leads into the mature traditional part of the garden. Here routes have been refined, existing planting replenished and a classically sculpted figure placed as an eye catcher that encourages exploration of the shrubby green depths. A pair of iron gates, long ago inherited by the owner's family from Chelmsford Cathedral, opens into the old orchard where, among the apple trees, Debbie tucked raised vegetable beds and a white greenhouse. Hidden behind high hedges, it is pretty, and couldn't be in greater stylistic contrast to the sleek polish of the main terrace. But that is the genius of Debbie's design. Combining old and new, like the house it enfolds, this garden forms the perfect palimpsest of one family's life long lived here. □

USEFUL INFORMATION

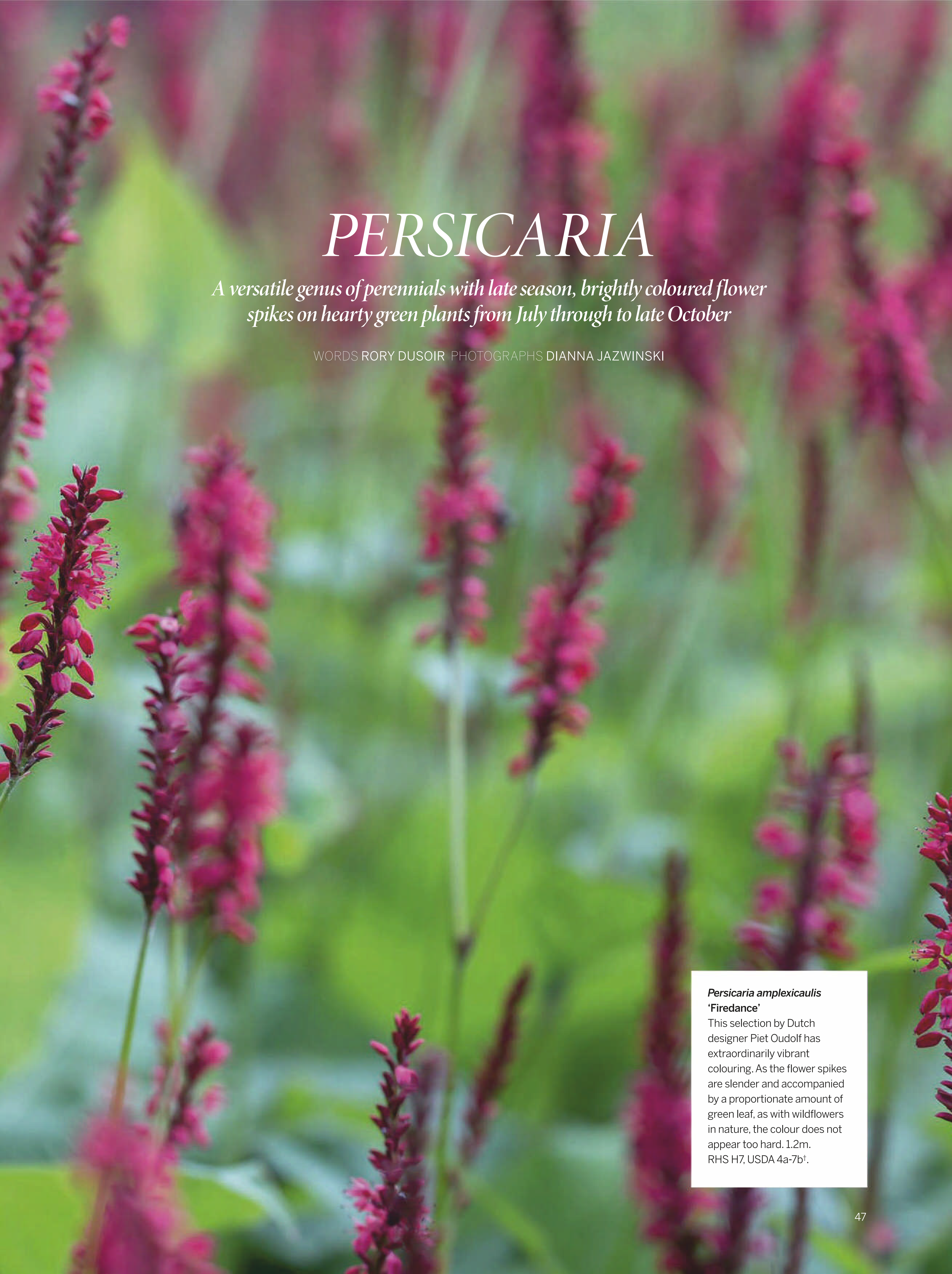
Find out more about Debbie's work at **acreswild.co.uk**

Above The natural topography of the terrace posed practical difficulties but now has a sense of inevitable logic and calm organisation. The broad, shallow steps have a sculptural quality that turns them into a feature in their own right, and four *Amelanchier* x *grandiflora* 'Robin Hill' skirted by clipped squares of box bridge the transition up to the next level.

Right above In the old orchard, Debbie created a traditional kitchen garden where oak-edged raised beds give the space a pleasing sense of order, and allow for intensive cultivation. The greenhouse is a new addition in period style that is filled with tomatoes throughout the summer.

Right below Hydrangeas grow well in this garden and Debbie has used different cultivars in various sections, including the compact mophead *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Ami Pasquier', which here marks a transition from the more contemporary and manicured part of the garden that runs across the back of the house, to a path that leads to more mature and woody reaches.

We wanted to have fun around the swimming pool but the terrace required a more contemporary polish



PERSICARIA

A versatile genus of perennials with late season, brightly coloured flower spikes on hearty green plants from July through to late October

WORDS RORY DUSOIR PHOTOGRAPHS DIANNA JAZWINSKI

***Persicaria amplexicaulis* 'Firedance'**
This selection by Dutch designer Piet Oudolf has extraordinarily vibrant colouring. As the flower spikes are slender and accompanied by a proportionate amount of green leaf, as with wildflowers in nature, the colour does not appear too hard. 1.2m. RHS H7, USDA 4a-7b†.

Until recently, the genus that we now know as *Persicaria* used to sit within a much broader genus called *Polygonum*. As with so many other genera, molecular studies conducted this century have blown it apart into smaller constituent genera, including *Polygonum*, *Fallopia* and *Fagopyrum*. By a happy accident, most of the pre-eminent horticultural species now reside in one genus, *Persicaria*, although this is by no means completely settled. The broader grouping contained some plants of infamously expansive vigour, including Russian vine (now *Fallopia baldschuanica*), and Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*). They may have damned some of their better-behaved cousins by association; however, although many of the species recommended here display a robust constitution and an agreeable self-sufficiency, they are all fairly easy to control when required.

Persicaria contains a broad variety of versatile garden plants, from vibrant, flowering dynamos and statuesque landscape plants to denizens of shady corners with atmospheric foliage. *Persicaria amplexicaulis* can be considered among the most floriferous of cultivated plants available to gardeners in temperate regions, and breeding has spawned a wide variety of cultivars in vivid shades of a spectrum between crimson and scarlet, although for the faint of heart there are also some white and soft pink-flowered cultivars. Its late season, spanning four months of intense flowering effort from July to October, combined with its general hardiness, versatility and natural charm, has won it an important place in the plant catalogues of the New Perennial Movement as well as in more traditional gardening paradigms. It is a vigorous and greedy beast with rather coarse foliage resembling that of another of its cousins, the dock. In rich conditions it will absorb as much nitrogen and moisture as the soil can provide, to form a huge mound of foliage and flower, up to 1.5m in all directions.

Although sharp-elbowed and competitive, it is resolutely clump-forming, with no running roots, and will not pose any problems of encroachment that can't be solved by splitting in autumn. The versatility of the species is highlighted by Piet Oudolf's planting at the Hauser & Wirth gallery in Somerset. In fertile soil at the fringes of the garden cultivars such as *Persicaria amplexicaulis* 'Firedance' grow much as one would expect, duking it out in full-blooded competition with other assertive species such as *Doellingeria umbellata* and *Eupatorium maculatum*. However, in conditions of slightly reduced fertility, sharper drainage and a different watering regime, *Persicaria amplexicaulis* 'Alba' creates a much more slender impression, weaving its spidery flower spikes among other diaphanous plants such as the grass *Sporobolus heterolepis* and airy *Amsonia hubrichtii*.

Persicaria x *fennica* 'Johanniswolke' is a majestic back-of-border perennial for rich, moist soil, the long flowering season of which leads seamlessly to a rich, tawny phase of ripening seed that can last until October. It is worth looking out for but confusingly sometimes sold as *P. alpina* or *P. polymorpha*. Somewhat similar in form, but shorter in stature and generally much more refined in flower and leaf, is *Persicaria campanulata*. Its flowers have the lustre of pearls and the foliage is subtly pleated in a most agreeable manner. Its flowers are a blushing white, but in the cultivar 'Rosenrot' they are more deeply suffused with pink. *Persicaria virginiana* in its wiry-flowered form var. *filiformis* likes to romp around in shady conditions by seed, as it does to great effect in the cloister of the Garden Museum in London. The unusual chevron-shaped variegation of its leaf is enhanced in various of its cultivars, which are mostly dark and moody. *Persicaria virginiana* 'Painter's Palette', however, is something quite different, with a substantial cream variegation of its leaves, upon which the chevron is initially a faint pink overlay, gradually darkening to maroon. ❑

• Author Rory Dusoir is a Kew-trained plantsman and garden writer.
His recommendations for the best persicarias can be found over the next five pages.

PLANT PROFILE

What A varied and versatile genus of around 100 species of robust and colourful perennials. Along with other members of the Polygonaceae family, they are commonly known as knotweed with the self-seeding *P. virginiana* also known as jumpseed.

Origins Persicaria are found in pretty much every country worldwide. The species covered here are found in a wide area emanating from the Himalayan region, while *P.* virginiana is widespread throughout eastern North America.

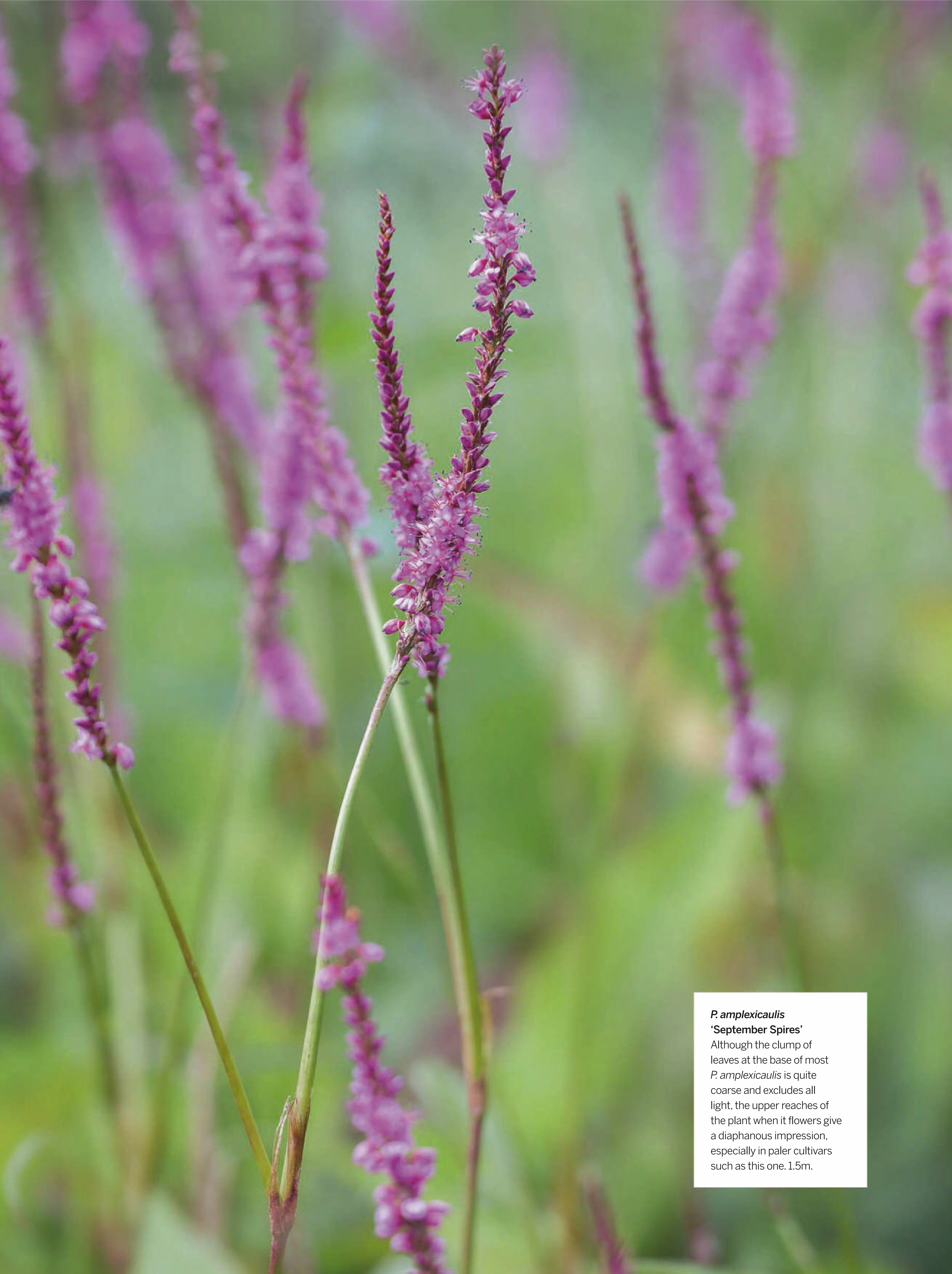
Season Most of the species featured here will flower from July to September or October; some species have a late flourish of blooms in September but these may be considered primarily as foliage plants.

Size From 30cm to 2.5m.

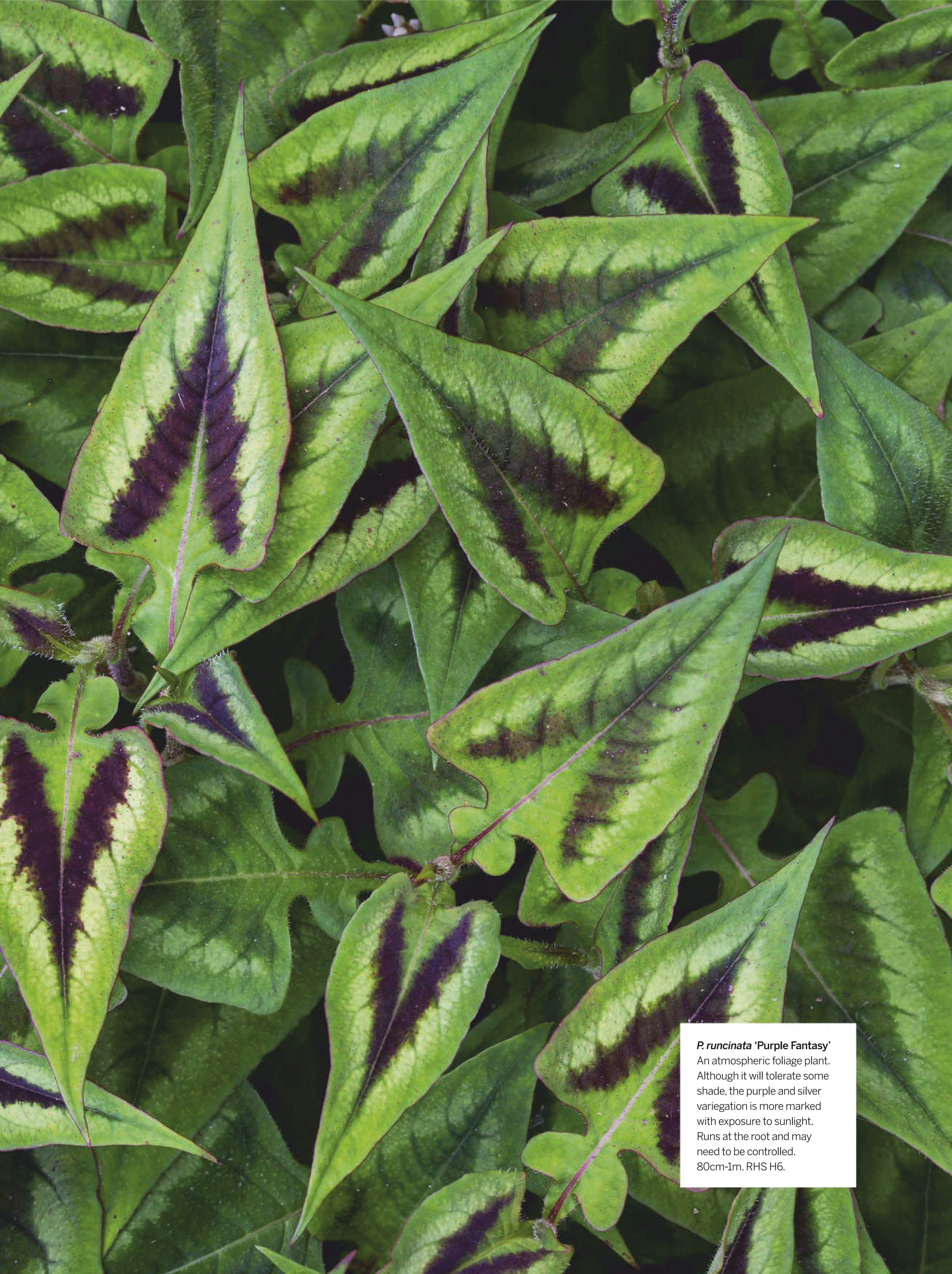
Conditions A general preference for rich soil and sun, with a few exceptions, but most species are adaptable.

Hardiness Most species are hardy to -20°C with a hardiness rating of RHS H6 to H7, and are generally suitable for gardens within USDA zones 4a to 8b.

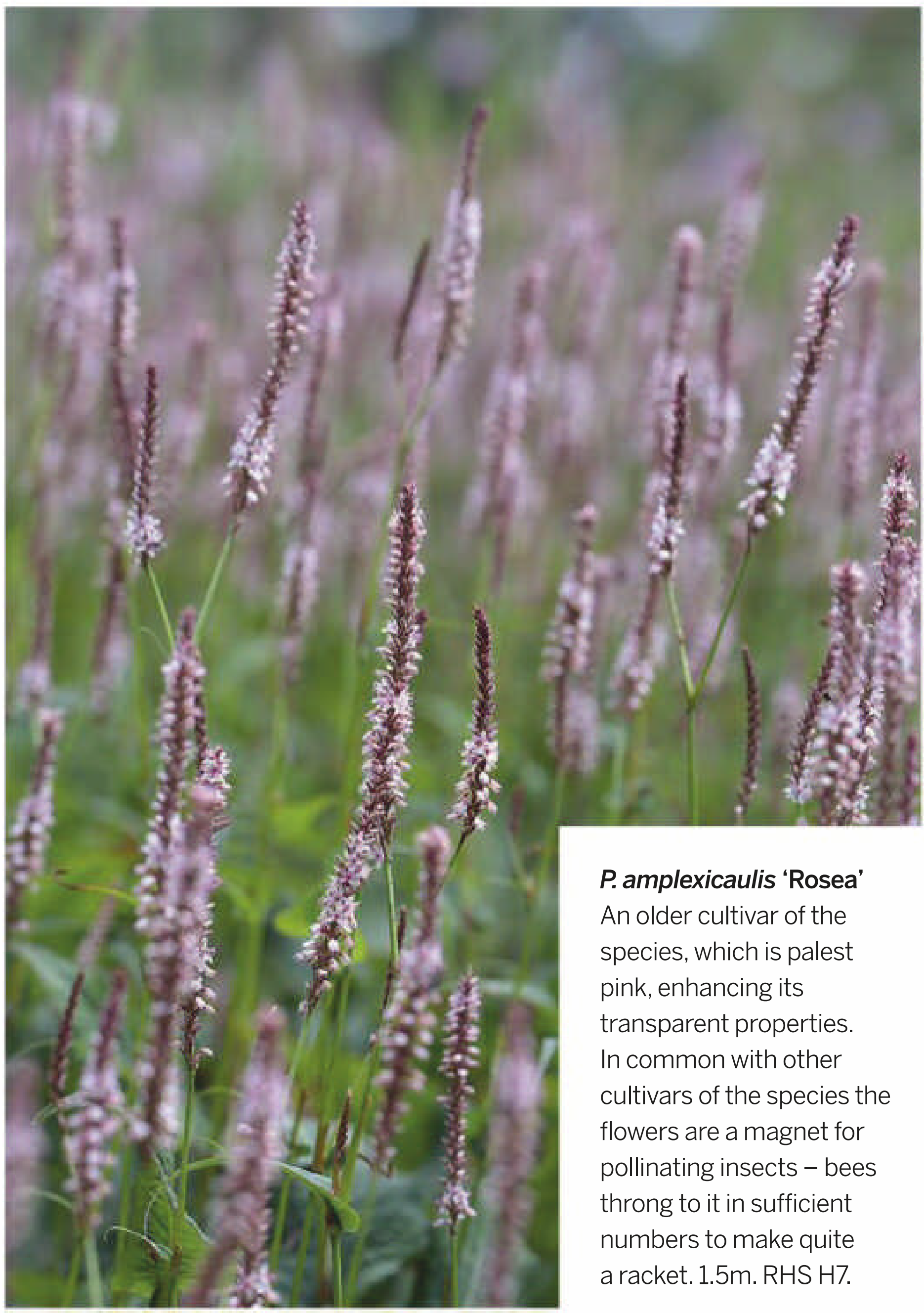
*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.
†Hardiness ratings given where available.



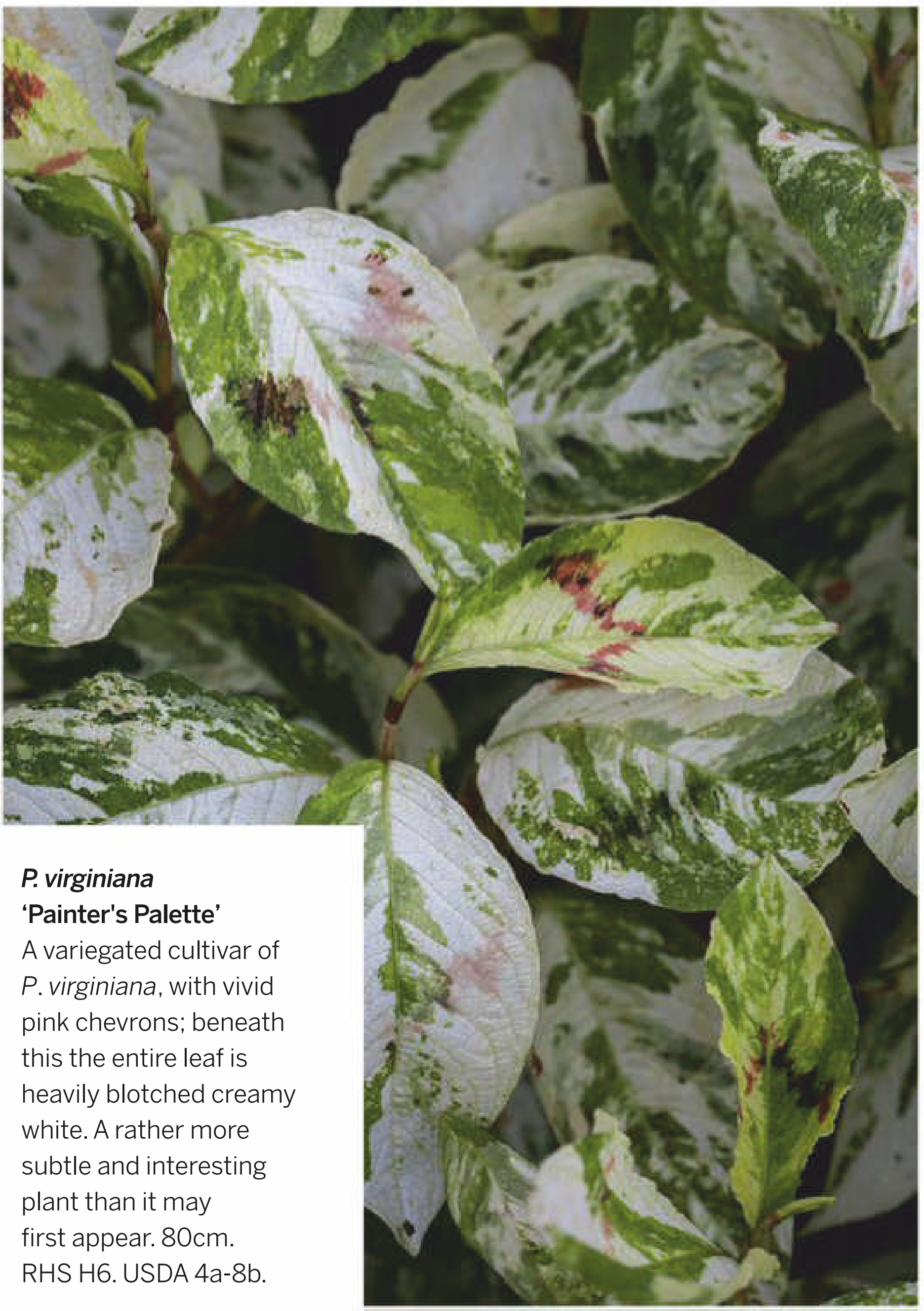
***P. amplexicaulis* 'September Spires'** Although the clump of leaves at the base of most *P. amplexicaulis* is quite coarse and excludes all light, the upper reaches of the plant when it flowers give a diaphanous impression, especially in paler cultivars such as this one. 1.5m.



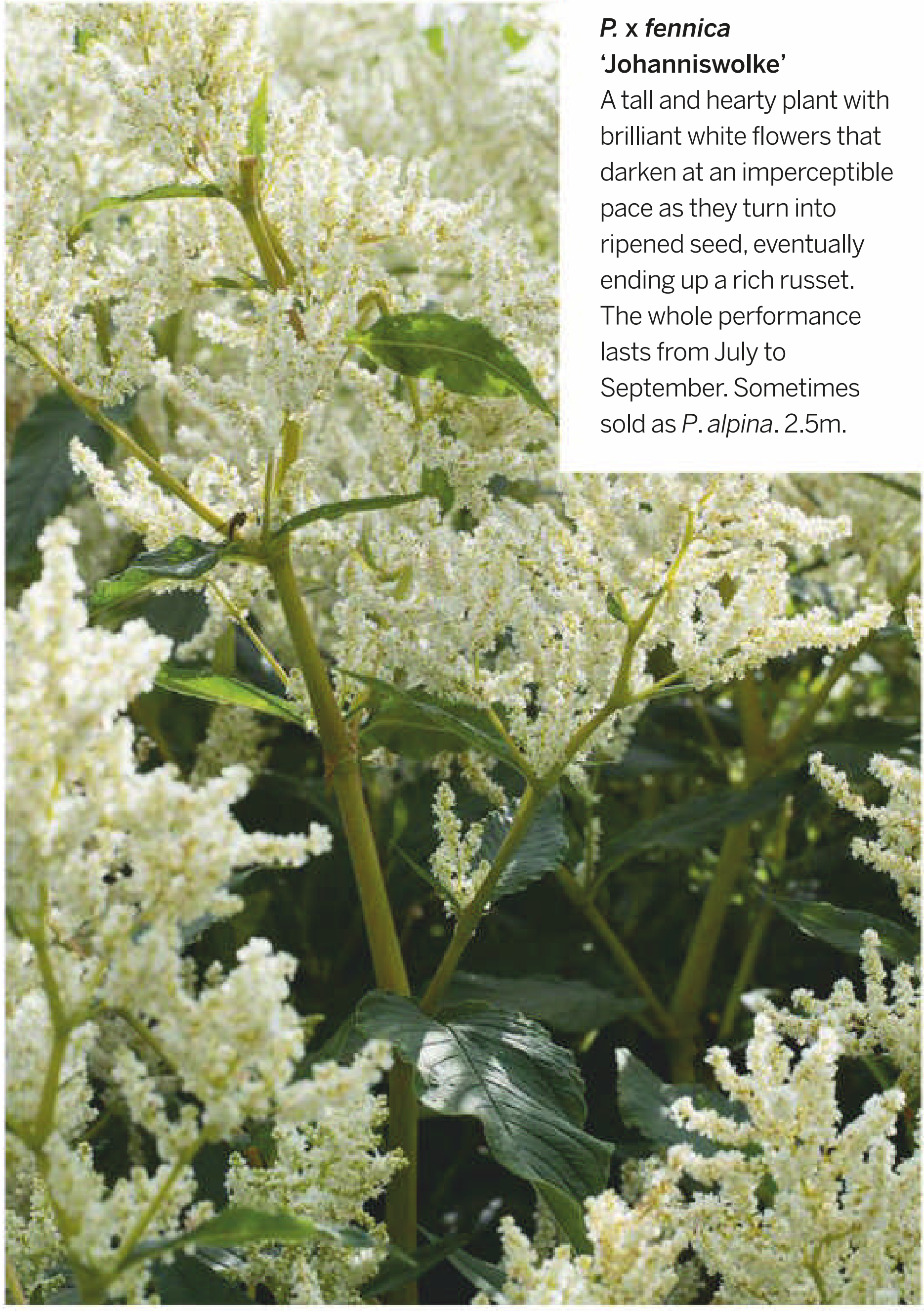
P. runcinata **'Purple Fantasy'**
An atmospheric foliage plant. Although it will tolerate some shade, the purple and silver variegation is more marked with exposure to sunlight. Runs at the root and may need to be controlled. 80cm-1m. RHS H6.



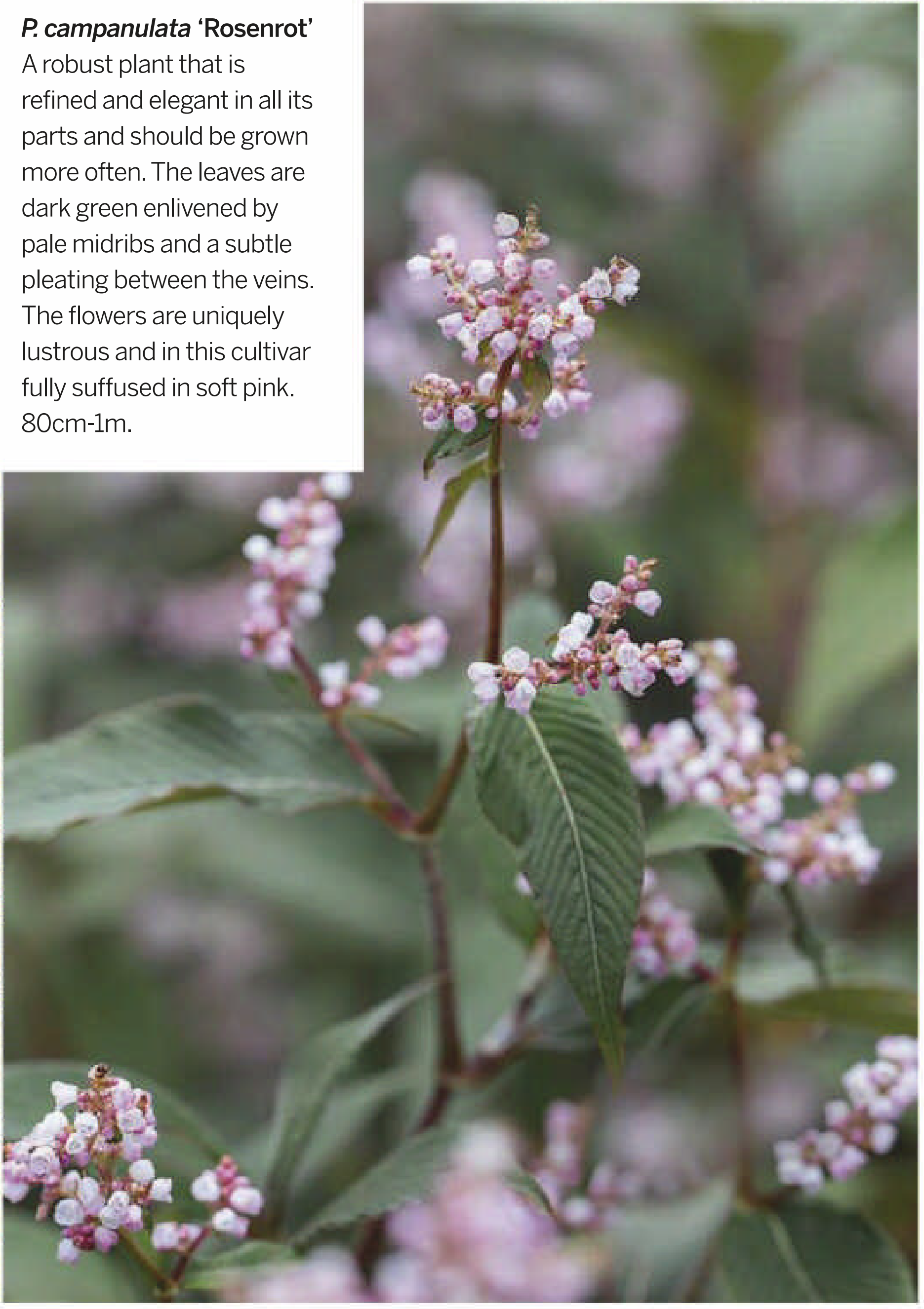
P. amplexicaulis **'Rosea'**
An older cultivar of the species, which is palest pink, enhancing its transparent properties. In common with other cultivars of the species the flowers are a magnet for pollinating insects – bees throng to it in sufficient numbers to make quite a racket. 1.5m. RHS H7.



P. virginiana
'Painter's Palette'
A variegated cultivar of *P. virginiana*, with vivid pink chevrons; beneath this the entire leaf is heavily blotched creamy white. A rather more subtle and interesting plant than it may first appear. 80cm. RHS H6. USDA 4a-8b.

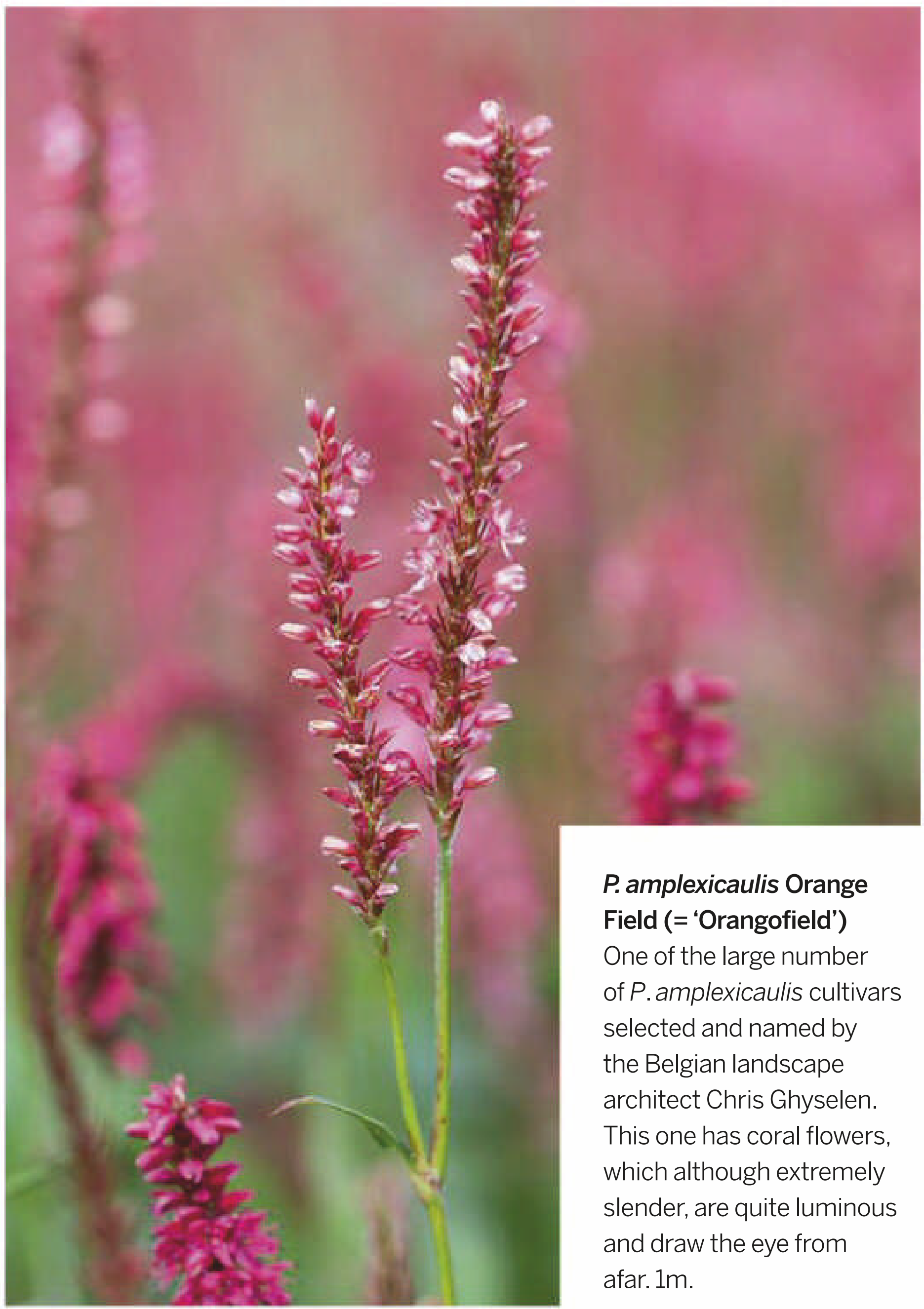


P. x *fennica*
'Johanniswolke'
A tall and hearty plant with brilliant white flowers that darken at an imperceptible pace as they turn into ripened seed, eventually ending up a rich russet. The whole performance lasts from July to September. Sometimes sold as *P. alpina*. 2.5m.

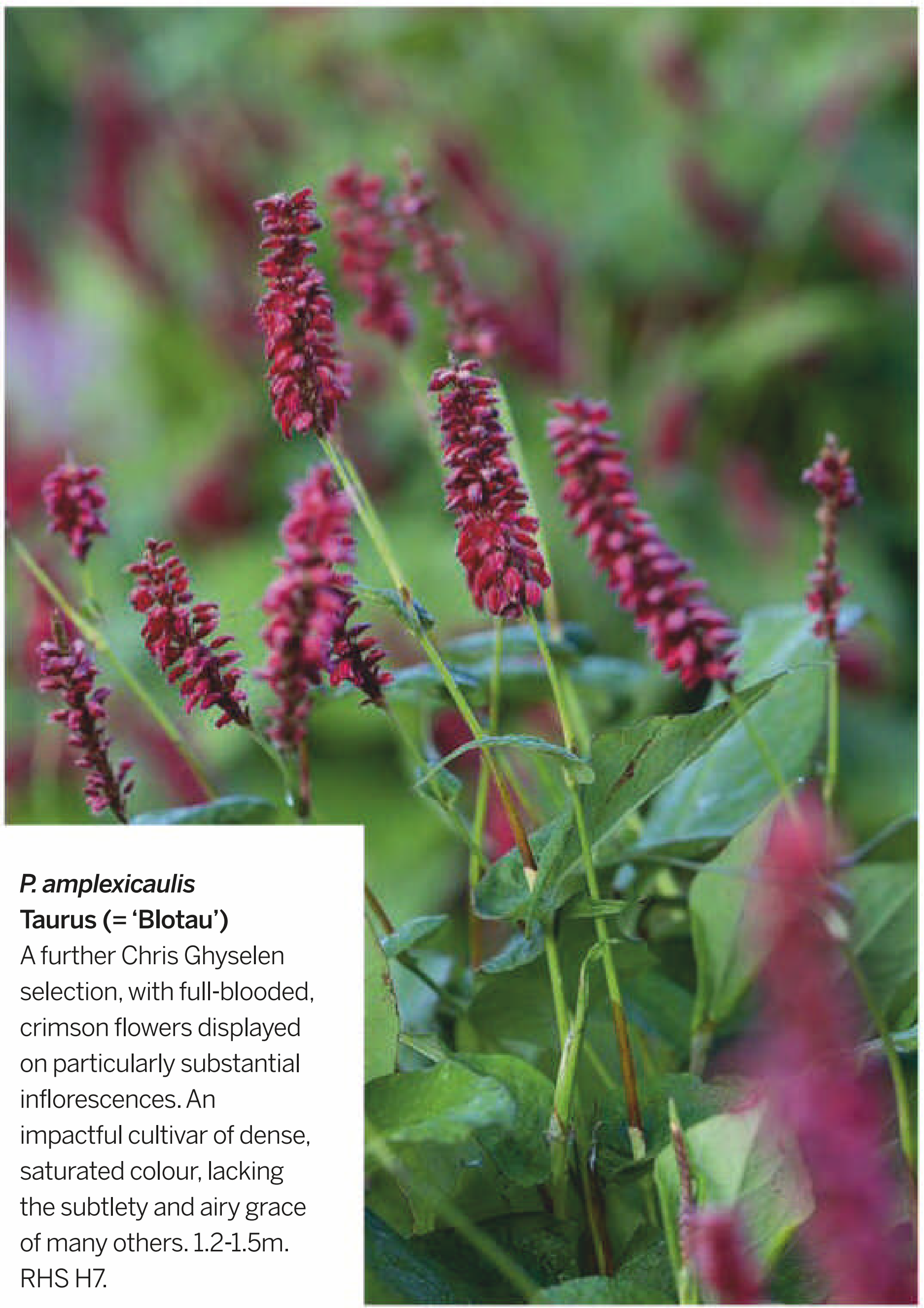


P. campanulata **'Rosenrot'**
A robust plant that is refined and elegant in all its parts and should be grown more often. The leaves are dark green enlivened by pale midribs and a subtle pleating between the veins. The flowers are uniquely lustrous and in this cultivar fully suffused in soft pink. 80cm-1m.

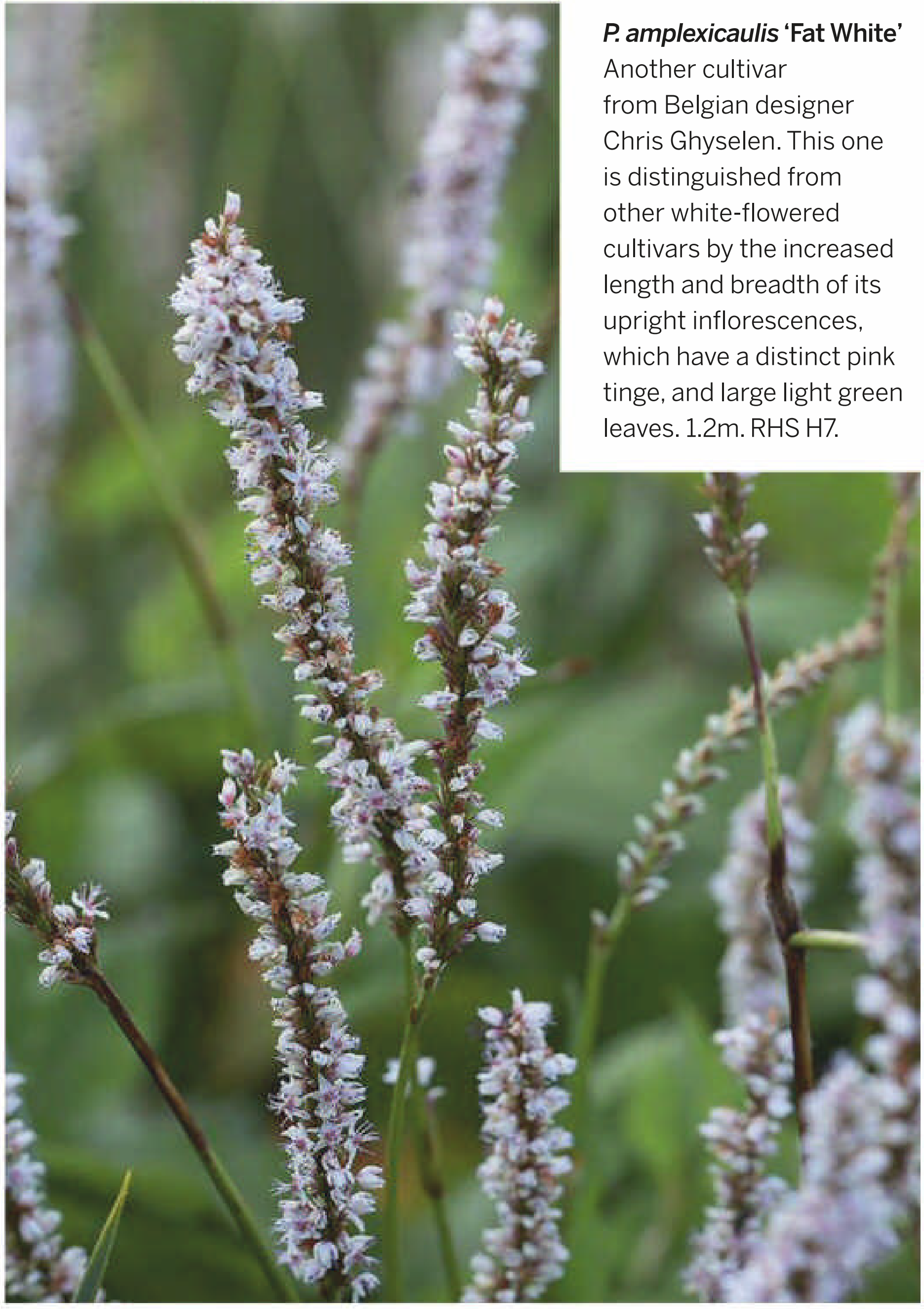
MARIANNE MAJERUS GARDEN IMAGES



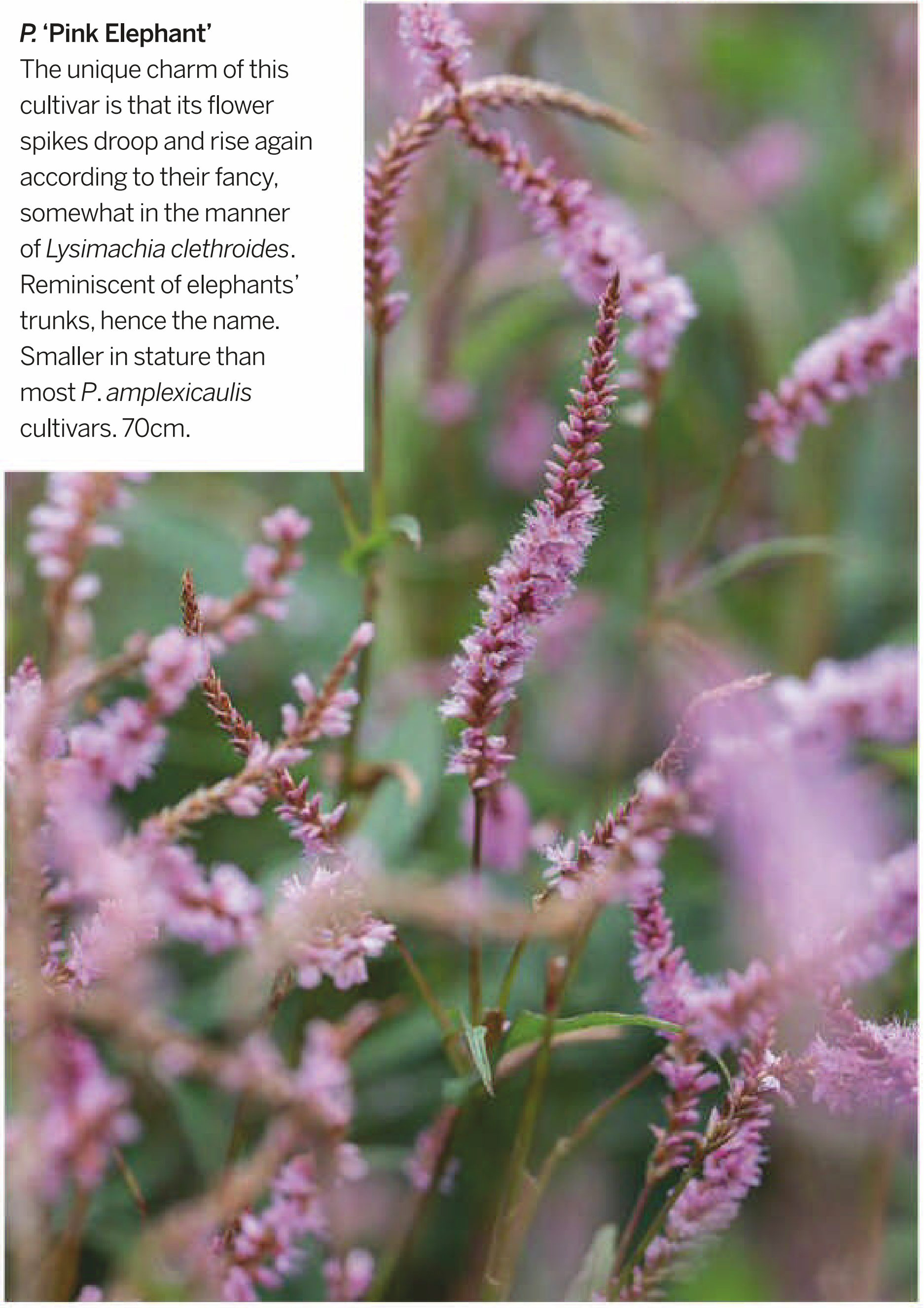
***P. amplexicaulis* Orange Field (= 'Orangofield')**
One of the large number of *P. amplexicaulis* cultivars selected and named by the Belgian landscape architect Chris Ghyselen. This one has coral flowers, which although extremely slender, are quite luminous and draw the eye from afar. 1m.



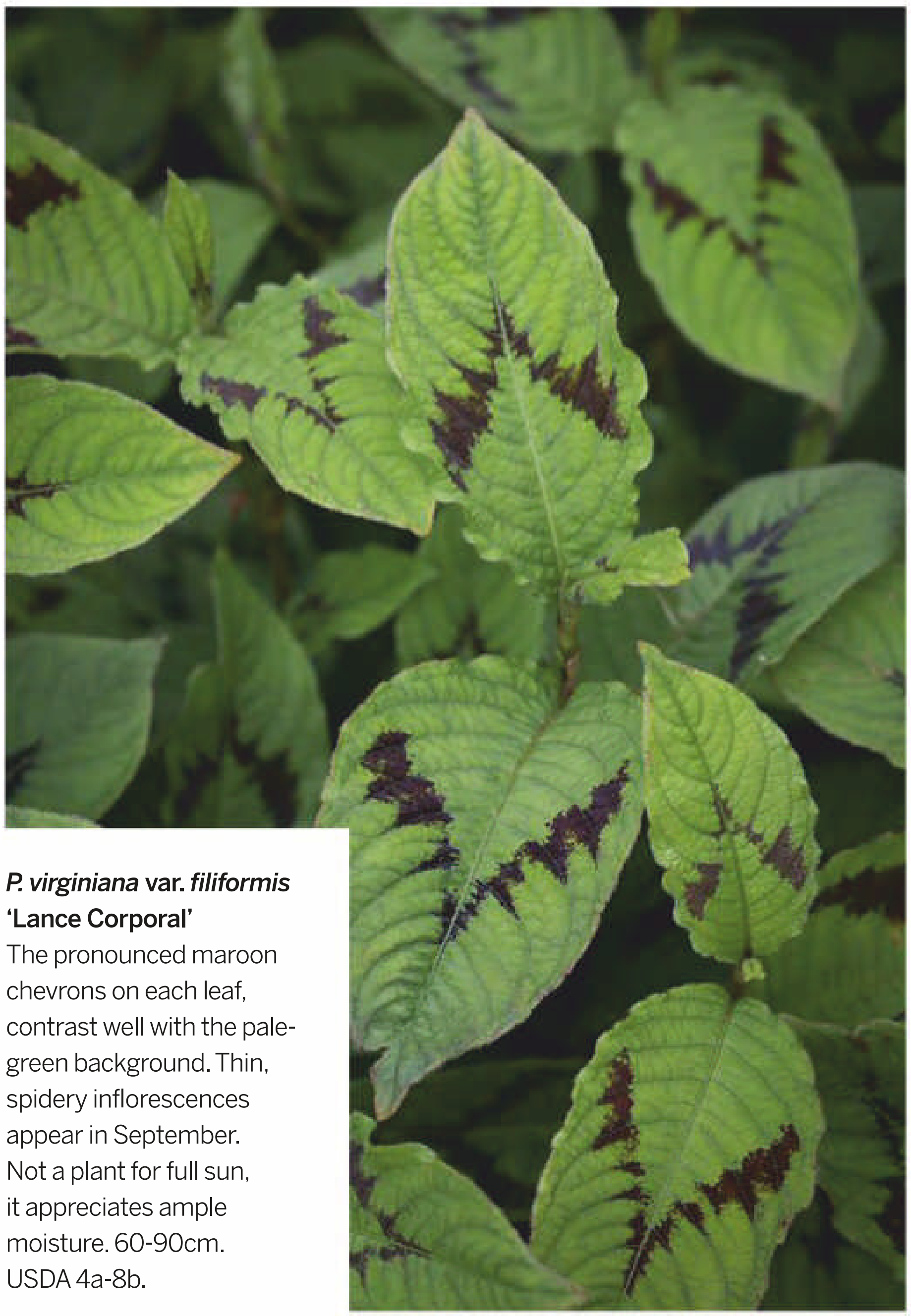
***P. amplexicaulis* Taurus (= 'Blotau')**
A further Chris Ghyselen selection, with full-blooded, crimson flowers displayed on particularly substantial inflorescences. An impactful cultivar of dense, saturated colour, lacking the subtlety and airy grace of many others. 1.2-1.5m. RHS H7.



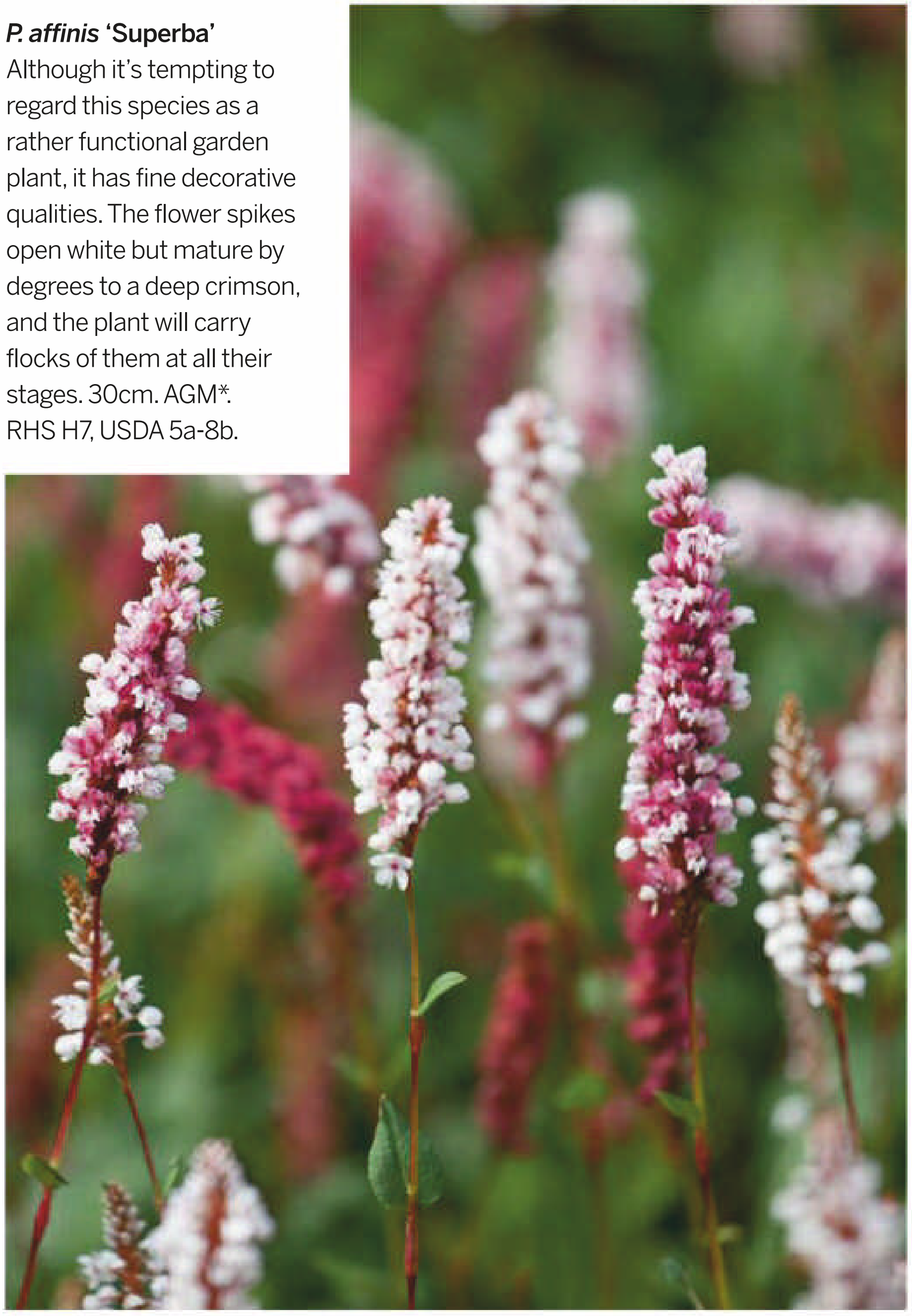
***P. amplexicaulis* 'Fat White'**
Another cultivar from Belgian designer Chris Ghyselen. This one is distinguished from other white-flowered cultivars by the increased length and breadth of its upright inflorescences, which have a distinct pink tinge, and large light green leaves. 1.2m. RHS H7.



***P.* 'Pink Elephant'**
The unique charm of this cultivar is that its flower spikes droop and rise again according to their fancy, somewhat in the manner of *Lysimachia clethroides*. Reminiscent of elephants' trunks, hence the name. Smaller in stature than most *P. amplexicaulis* cultivars. 70cm.



***P. virginiana* var. *filiformis* 'Lance Corporal'**
The pronounced maroon chevrons on each leaf, contrast well with the pale-green background. Thin, spidery inflorescences appear in September. Not a plant for full sun, it appreciates ample moisture. 60-90cm. USDA 4a-8b.



***P. affinis* 'Superba'**
Although it's tempting to regard this species as a rather functional garden plant, it has fine decorative qualities. The flower spikes open white but mature by degrees to a deep crimson, and the plant will carry flocks of them at all their stages. 30cm. AGM*. RHS H7, USDA 5a-8b.

MANY THANKS TO SUSSEX PRAIRIE GARDEN IN WEST SUSSEX WHERE MOST OF THESE IMAGES WERE TAKEN.
JULIE PIGULA / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

Cultivation

The various species within the genus *Persicaria* are rather varied in their garden uses and cultivation requirements, but they tend to have in common a completely robust approach to life and will generally flourish with a minimum of fuss. Slugs and snails may make an impression on the foliage of *Persicaria virginiana* and its cultivars, but even they are not bothered too much. In general, the gardener's problems when dealing with the genus are more likely to concern containment of growth rather than its encouragement. As a tribe they tend particularly to enjoy rich, moist soil, but are surprisingly adaptable to poorer, drier conditions.

Although they do not have the insidious habit of travelling hither and thither by root, the most vigorous clump-formers, such as *P.* x *fennica* 'Johanniswolke' and *P. amplexicaulis*, may surprise you with their competitive zeal above ground, and can swamp adjacent plants unless they are similarly competitive. Poorer conditions will restrict their vigour somewhat, as well as splitting and re-planting their clumps regularly in autumn. But the best approach is to let them jostle with other big beasts of prairies, meadows and flower borders, such as *Eupatorium maculatum* and the aster *Doellingeria umbellata*, as well as anemones, *Vernonia arkansana, Silphium perfoliatum* and larger grasses such as *Miscanthus sinensis*, *Molinia caerulea* subsp. *arundinacea* 'Transparent' and *Panicum virgatum* 'Northwind', which all have suitable vigour.

Persicaria virginiana (known as jumpseed) and its cultivars may self-seed quite prolifically, but this is quite an innocuous habit as it is easy to remove and indeed, many of its volunteers may be quite welcome. *P. runcinata* and *P. affinis* are both much more likely to pose problems and need to be sited with some consideration. *P. runcinata* travels underground but needs decent light, so being hemmed in by shrubs or paving should be enough to contain its spread. *P. affinis* is also quite a rapid coloniser, forming a solid interlocking mat of running stems. Its foliage is semi-evergreen so it makes a fairly formidable groundcover plant. This can be a considerable virtue if you are looking to cover a wide area with something attractive that will exclude even the most determined weeds; however, in the mixed border it can become a bit of a nuisance as the wiry stems gain considerable purchase on the soil with their roots, and are hard to extricate from neighbouring plants.

Where to see

- **Hauser & Wirth Somerset**
  Durslade Farm,
  Dropping Lane, Bruton,
  Somerset BA10 0NL.
  Tel 01749 814060,
  hauserwirth.com
- **Sussex Prairie Garden**
  Morlands Farm,
  Wheatsheaf Road, Henfield,
  West Sussex BN5 9AT.
  Tel 01273 495902,
  sussexprairies.co.uk

Where to buy

- **Abi and Tom's Garden Plants**
  Halecat, Witherslack,
  Cumbria LA11 6RT.
  Tel 015395 52946,
  sussexprairies.co.uk
- **Beth Chatto Nursery**
  Elmstead Market,
  Colchester,
  Essex CO7 7DB.
  Tel 01206 822007,
  bethchatto.co.uk
- **Claire Austin**
  White Hopton Farm,
  Wern Lane, Sarn, Newtown,
  Powys SY16 4EN.
  Tel 01686 670342,
  claireaustinhardyplants.co.uk
- **Dove Cottage Nursery**
  Shibden Hall Road, Halifax,
  West Yorkshire HX3 9XA.
  Tel 01422 203553,
  dovecottagenursery.co.uk

This image Ferns work well in many different garden settings but are the perfect solution for a shady area, as here in the stumpery at Malverleys in Hampshire.

Facing page Malverleys' head gardener, Matthew Reese, collects spores from the leaves of a hart's tongue fern (*Asplenium scolopendrium*).

Flexible fronds

Offering beautiful foliage shape and texture, ferns are easy to grow and equally easy to propagate

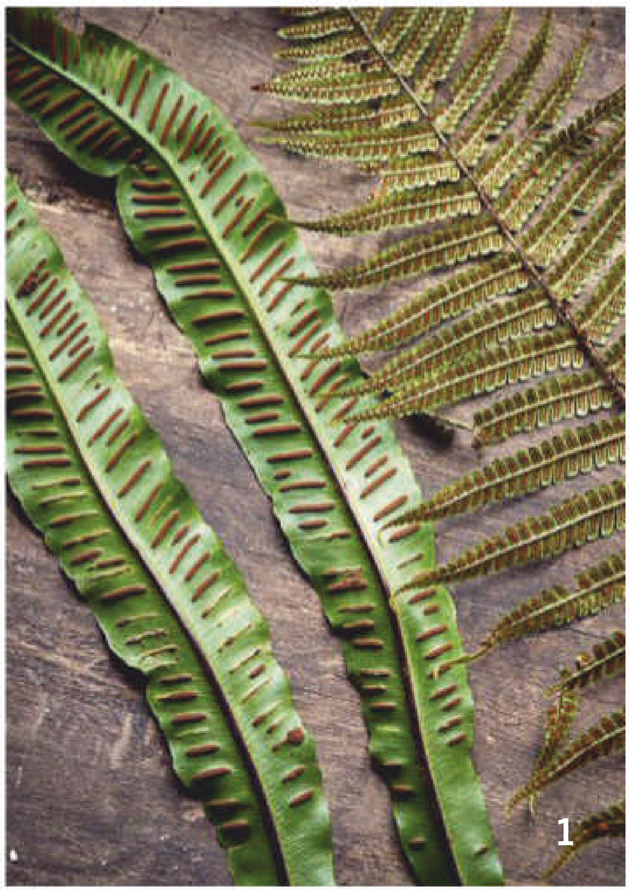
WORDS **MATTHEW REESE** PHOTOGRAPHS **JASON INGRAM**

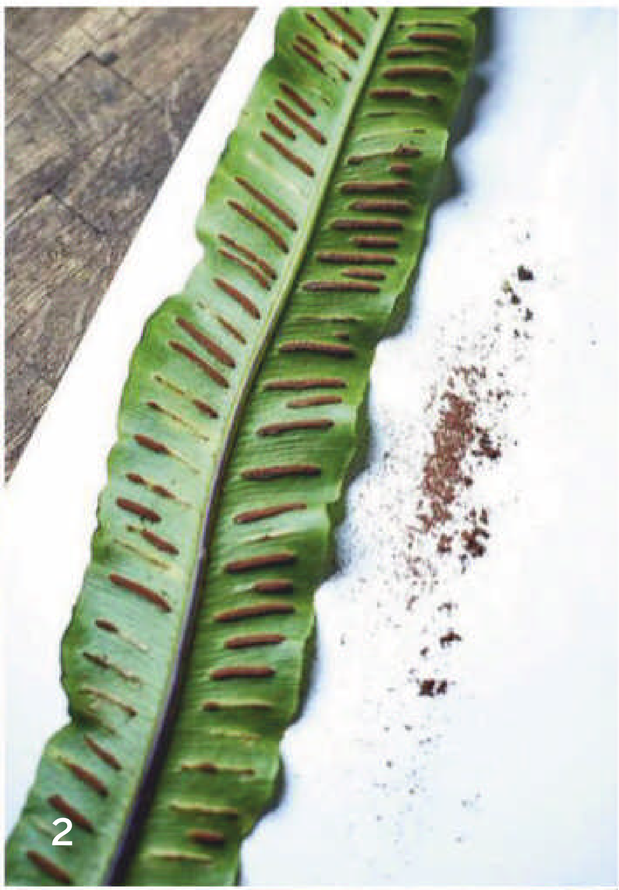
Few perennials have such a distinctive and instantly recognisable form as ferns, despite their huge variation in appearance and size. The unique shape and texture of the fronds create striking focal points in the garden where they contrast well against other plants. The captivating unfurling croziers in spring develop into smart, elegant foliage that often remains interesting into the winter months.

The conditions under which ferns will flourish is also quite variable. Hart's tongues or *Asplenium scolopendrium*, for example, often find their way from the flower border to gaps in walls and paving, and are tolerant of deep, dry shade, while the beautiful *Osmunda regalis* will thrive in wet conditions (even with its feet in water) and will make strong colonies of fronds more than 1.2m tall.

Ferns can be increased by several methods, the easiest of which is by dividing plants from the garden in spring. Potted divisions should be secured in a shaded cold frame until roots have developed. New plants can also be grown from bulbils (see page 57), but ferns are most readily propagated in larger numbers using spores. Spores are produced on the undersides of the fronds in small capsules called sporangia. When ripe, the sporangia shed thousands of spores that are dispersed by the wind. If they have landed in a suitable position, the spores will then form a heart-shaped structure called a prothallus, which will then go on to produce a fern. This process will only be successful in continuous dampness, in both natural and controlled environments. The time to complete this cycle varies, adiantums for example, may be ready for pricking out in as little as six weeks, while others may take a few months. It is not uncommon to find rogue plants with your desired lot, as spores waft about on the slightest breath, and it is therefore important to keep everything sterile.

Turn the page for advice on how to propagate





How to propagate ferns

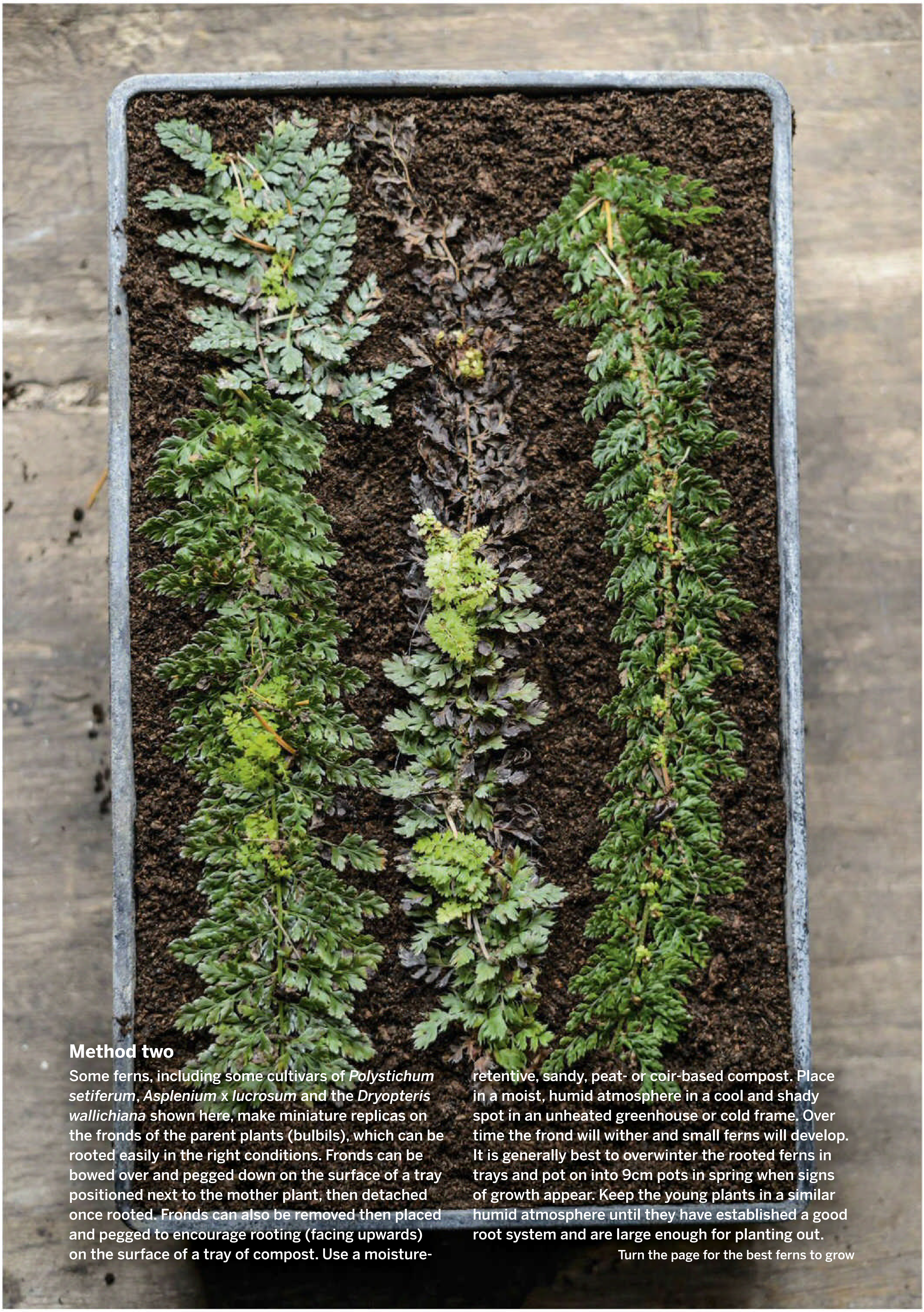
Method 1

1 For the gardener, the most general means of propagation of ferns is by spores. These spores (fine, dust-like particles similar in some ways to pollen but able to generate a new plant) are contained in small capsules – called sporangia – on the underside of the fronds, as you can see in the *Asplenium scolopendrium* shown above. Provided you can supply heat, ferns can be propagated year-round, otherwise, March and July are the best months.

2 Periodically examine the fern carefully and when these small capsules turn brown (but before they have burst) cut the frond and wrap it up in smooth, white paper. After a day or two, unwrap the frond, being mindful not to spill any of the fine brown dust, which is composed of millions of minute spores.

3 For compost, I use a 50/50 mix of John Innes seed compost and peat. Place in a sterilised container or pot and firm level. Cover the compost with a paper towel and scald with boiling water to sterilise the soil. Once the compost has cooled, remove the towel and sow the spores immediately. The spores can be sown in the same way as seeds, thinly over the surface of the compost.

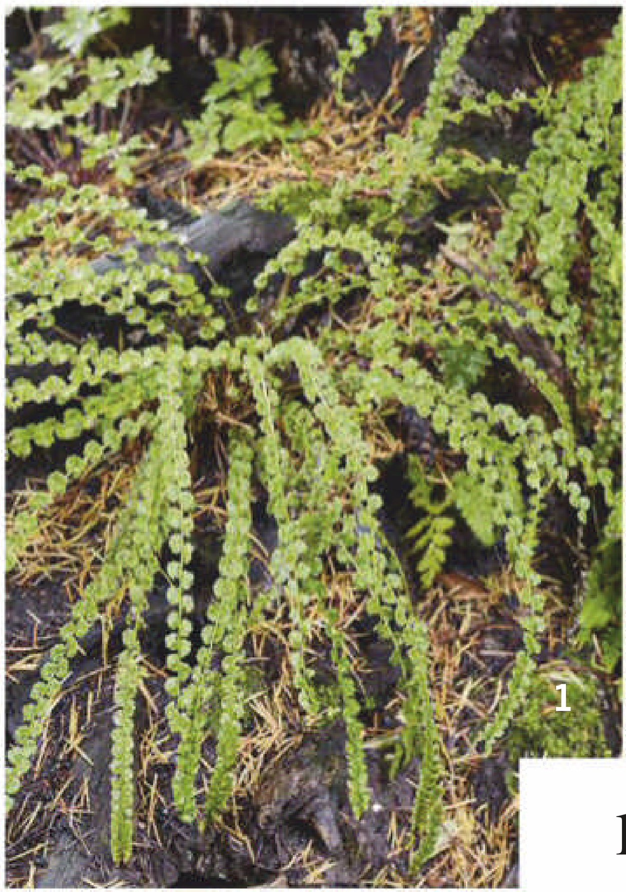
4 Quickly cover with a lid or plastic bag to prevent contamination. It is essential to keep the compost moist for germination to occur, but do not water from above. Instead, stand pots in a saucer of water. Place in a shady position.

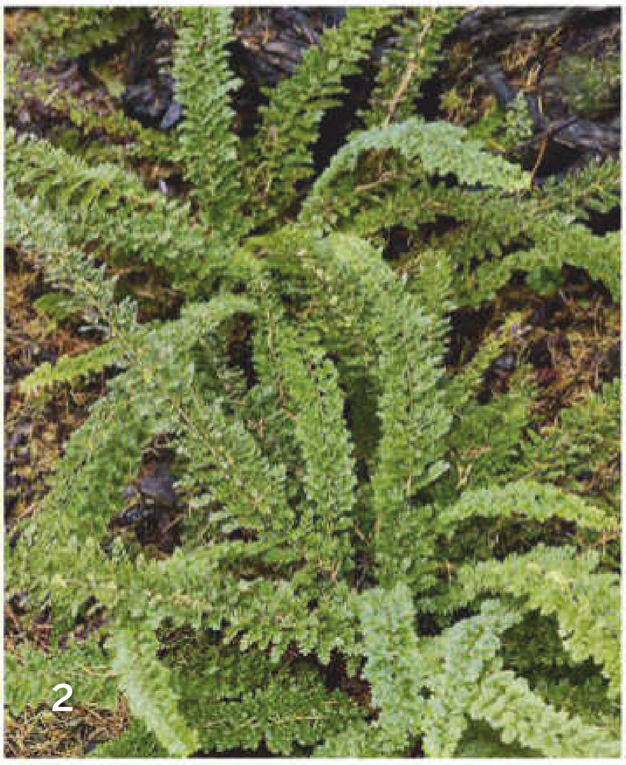


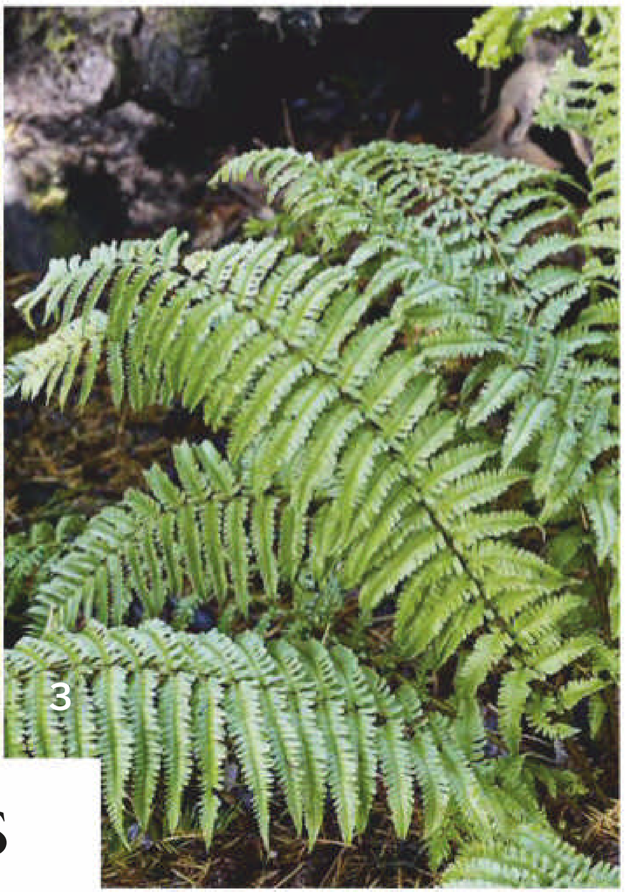
Method two

Some ferns, including some cultivars of *Polystichum setiferum*, *Asplenium* x *lucrosum* and the *Dryopteris wallichiana* shown here, make miniature replicas on the fronds of the parent plants (bulbils), which can be rooted easily in the right conditions. Fronds can be bowed over and pegged down on the surface of a tray positioned next to the mother plant, then detached once rooted. Fronds can also be removed then placed and pegged to encourage rooting (facing upwards) on the surface of a tray of compost. Use a moisture-retentive, sandy, peat- or coir-based compost. Place in a moist, humid atmosphere in a cool and shady spot in an unheated greenhouse or cold frame. Over time the frond will wither and small ferns will develop. It is generally best to overwinter the rooted ferns in trays and pot on into 9cm pots in spring when signs of growth appear. Keep the young plants in a similar humid atmosphere until they have established a good root system and are large enough for planting out.

Turn the page for the best ferns to grow


1


2


3

16 KEY GARDEN FERNS

1 ***Athyrium filix-femina*** **'Frizelliae'** Arching fronds and very reduced pinnae (individual leaflets). Needs careful positioning to be noticed, but is worth the effort. 40cm. AGM*. RHS H6, USDA 4a-8b†.

2 ***Polystichum setiferum*** **'Smith's Cruciate'** Another narrow-fronded mutation but much more substantial and robust than the *Athyrium*. It can take sunshine with enough moisture but is best grown in shade on humus-rich soils. 40cm. RHS H7.

3 ***Dryopteris filix-mas*** **'Revolvens'** A substantial fern with matt, softly textured and slightly limp, mid-green pinnae held on arching fronds. Will tolerate some dryness once established. Best in dappled shade. 1m. RHS H7, USDA 4a-8b.

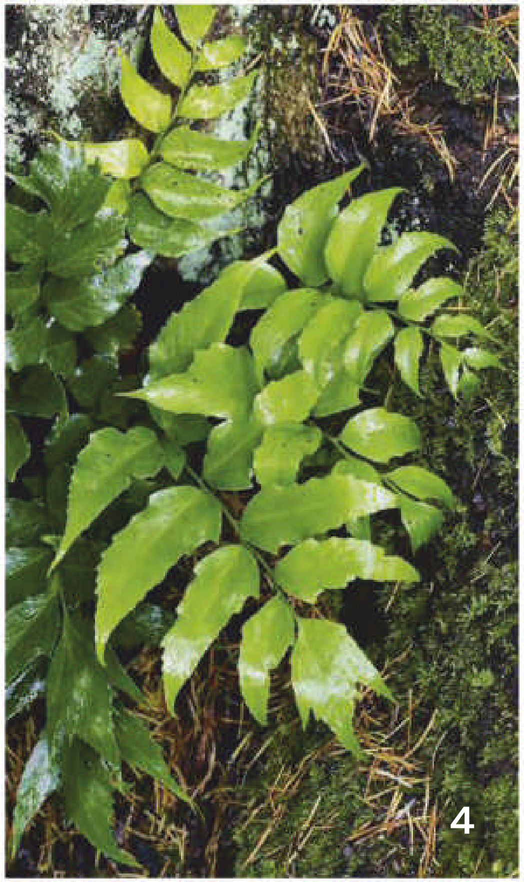
4 ***Cyrtomium falcatum*** **'Rochfordianum'** This fern with arching sprays of glossy foliage, is best grown in moist, rich soil but has done well in drier sites. 50cm. RHS H3, USDA 6a-10b.

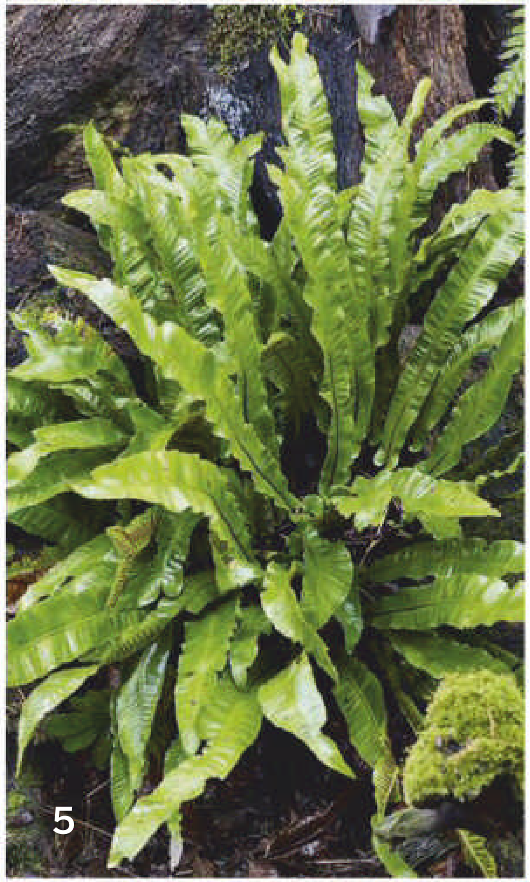
5 ***Asplenium scolopendrium*** The native hart's tongue with arching green fronds will self-seed in nooks and crannies. Remove old leaves in spring. 50cm. AGM. RHS H6, USDA 5a-9b.

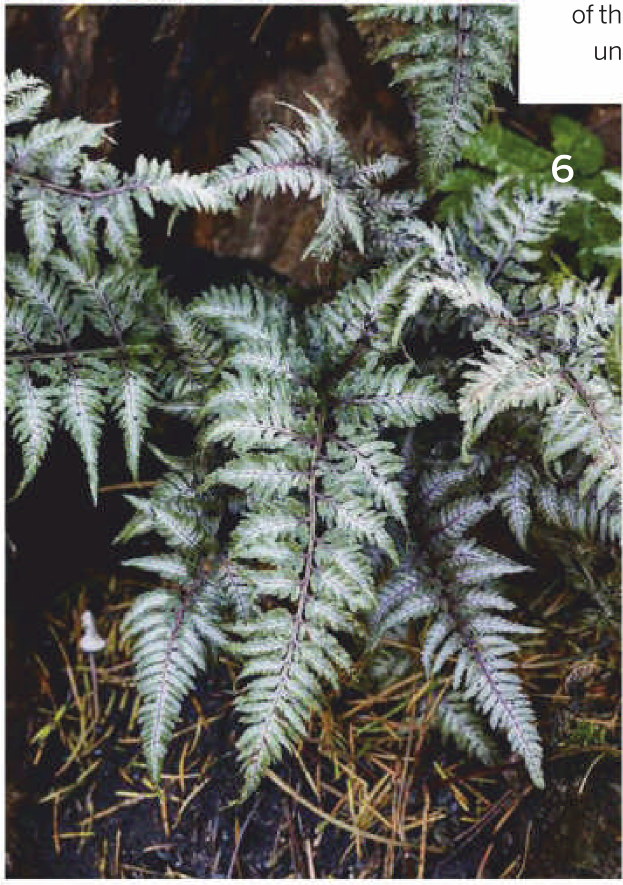
6 ***Athyrium niponicum*** **var.** ***pictum*** Has unusual metallic grey-purple pinnae on small triangular fronds. Can be tricky and needs moist, free-draining soils. 30cm. AGM. RHS H5, USDA 3a- 8b.

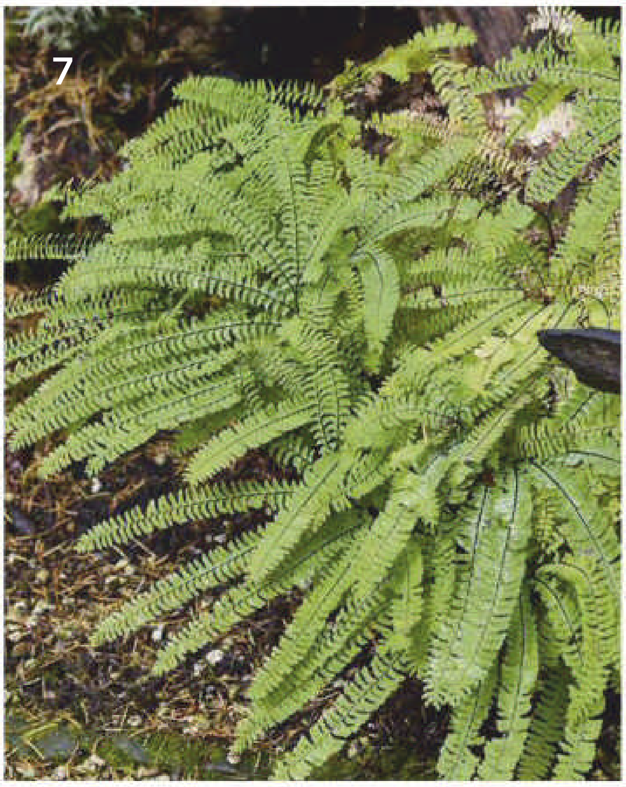
7 ***Adiantum pedatum*** This dainty maidenhair fern casts airy fronds of delicate pinnae on thin black stems. Very beautiful and good for front of a border. 45cm. AGM. RHS H6.

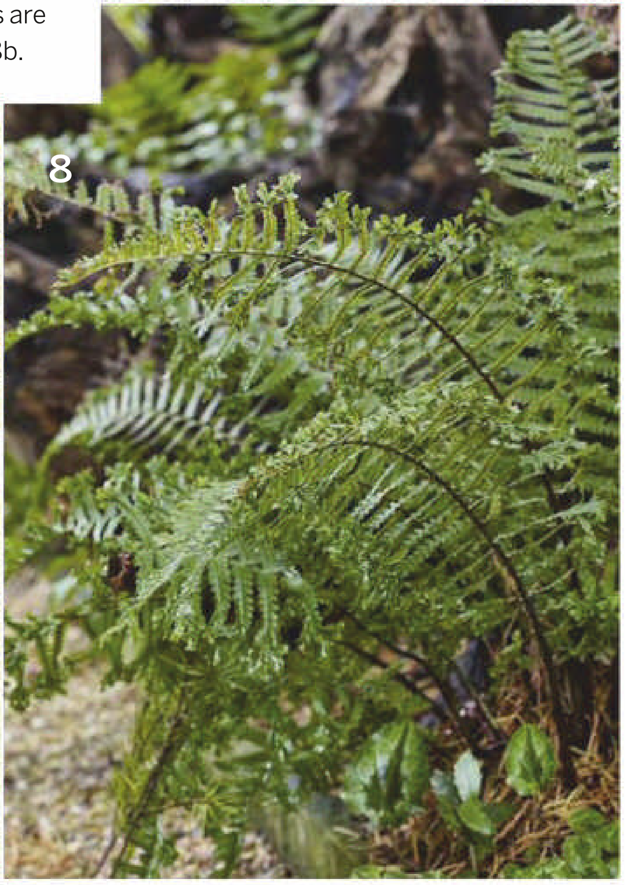
8 ***Dryopteris filix-mas*** **'Crispa Cristata'** A cristate (crested) form of the native male fern. Looks good in May when the croziers are unfurling and into winter. 70cm. AGM. RHS H7, USDA 4a-8b.

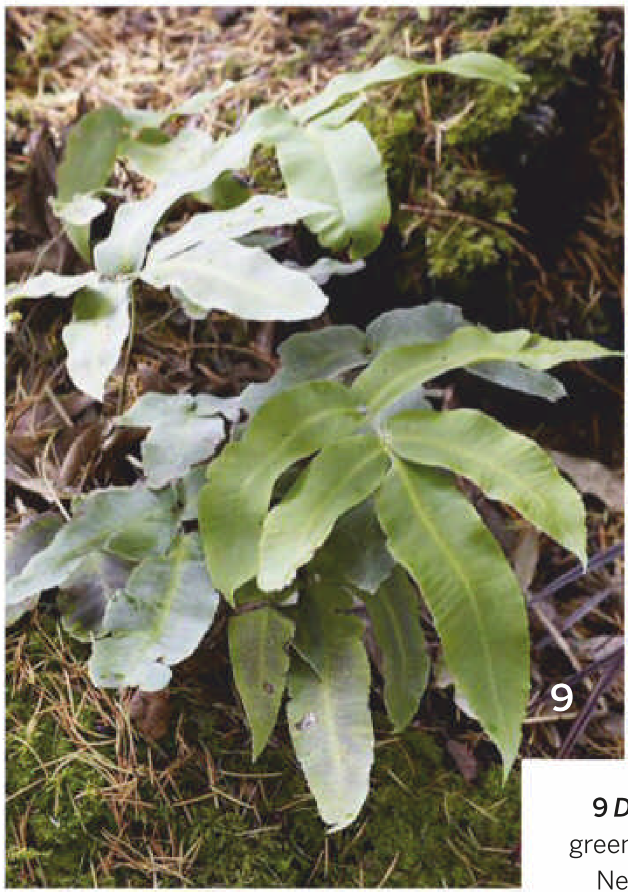

4

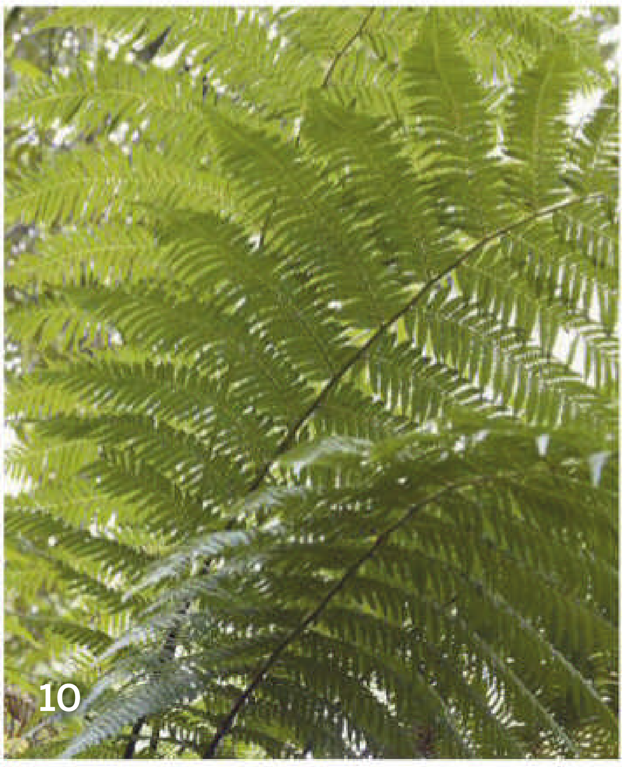

5

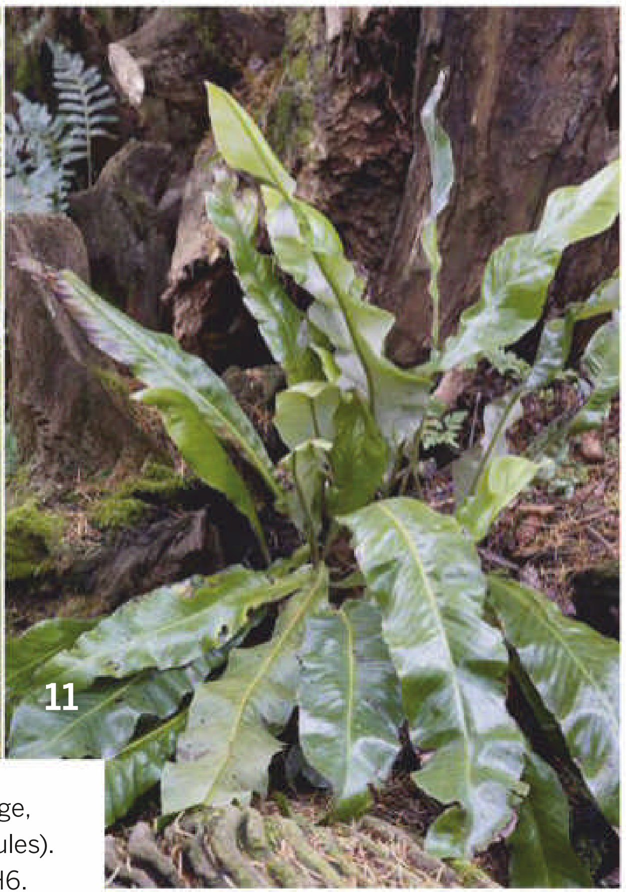

6

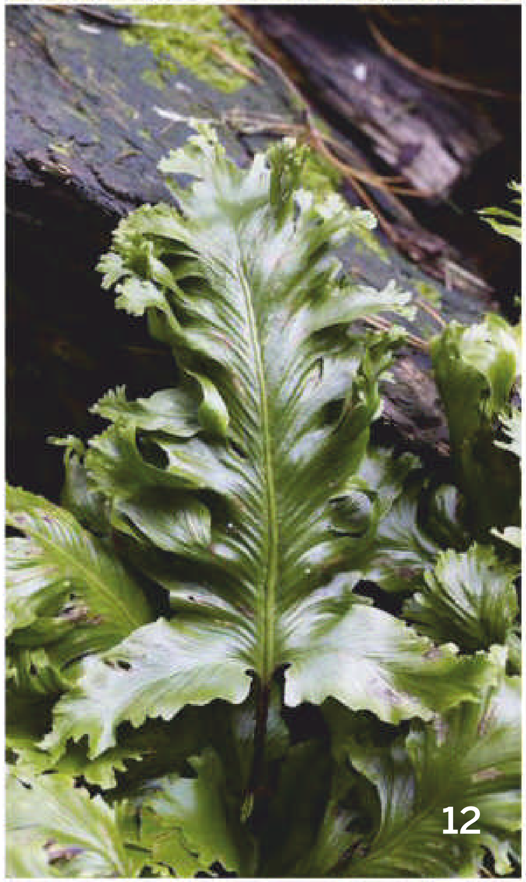

7

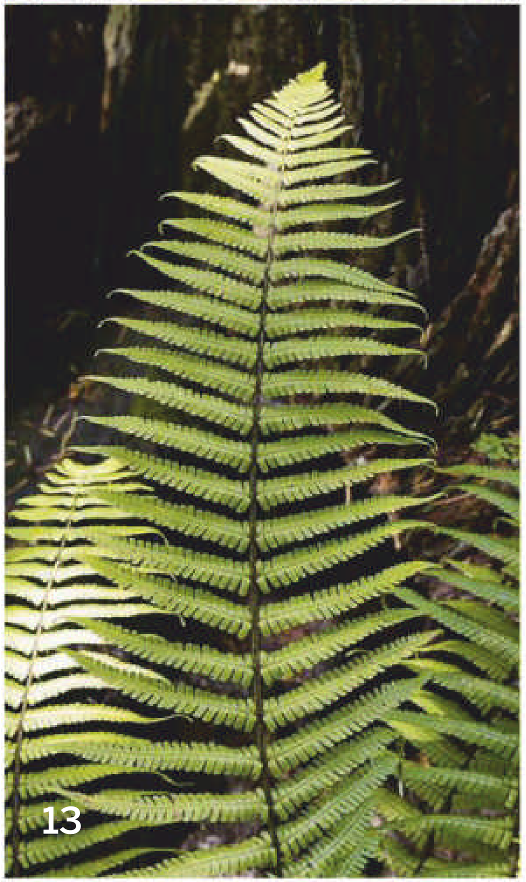

8


9


10


11


12


13

9 ***Dryopteris sieboldii*** When grown well the foliage has large, green, palmate fronds peppered in striking sori (spore capsules). Needs moist, rich soil and part shade. 30cm. AGM. RHS H6.

10 ***Dicksonia antarctica*** Has huge presence in a garden with large arching fronds that form a radial core atop chocolate-coloured fibrous trunks. 4m. AGM. RHS H7, USDA 9a-10b.

11 ***Pyrrosia* sp.** An evergreen fern collected in northeast Himalaya. Initially thought to be tender, it has now survived three winters in the stumpery. Long ascending fronds are lustrous on the upper surface and glaucous underneath. 50cm. RHS H7.

12 ***Asplenium scolopendrium* Cristatum Group** Cristate form of hart's tongue fern with delightfully unruly foliage that catches the light on shiny, crumpled fronds. Once established will tolerate some drought. 30cm. RHS H6, USDA 5a-9b.

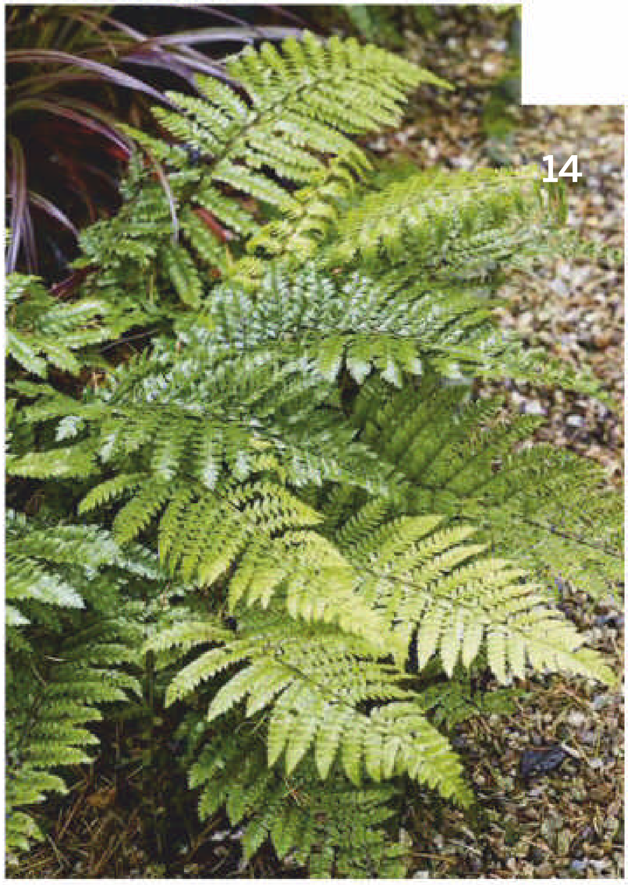
13 ***Dryopteris wallichiana*** In spring, this deciduous fern unfurls to produce fronds with striking, dark rachises (main stalks) and shimmering green pinnae. 1m. AGM. RHS H5, USDA 6a-9b.

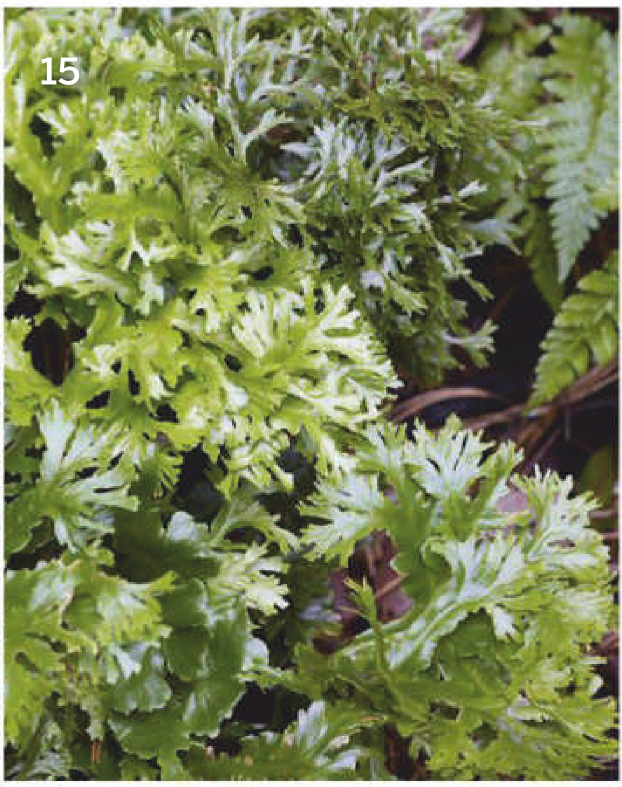
14 ***Polystichum polyblepharum*** A clump-forming fern with lovely, soft, broad fronds, the new croziers are particularly hairy, and the overall effect is a flatter congregation of fronds than most other ferns. 40cm. AGM. RHS H7, USDA 5a-8b.

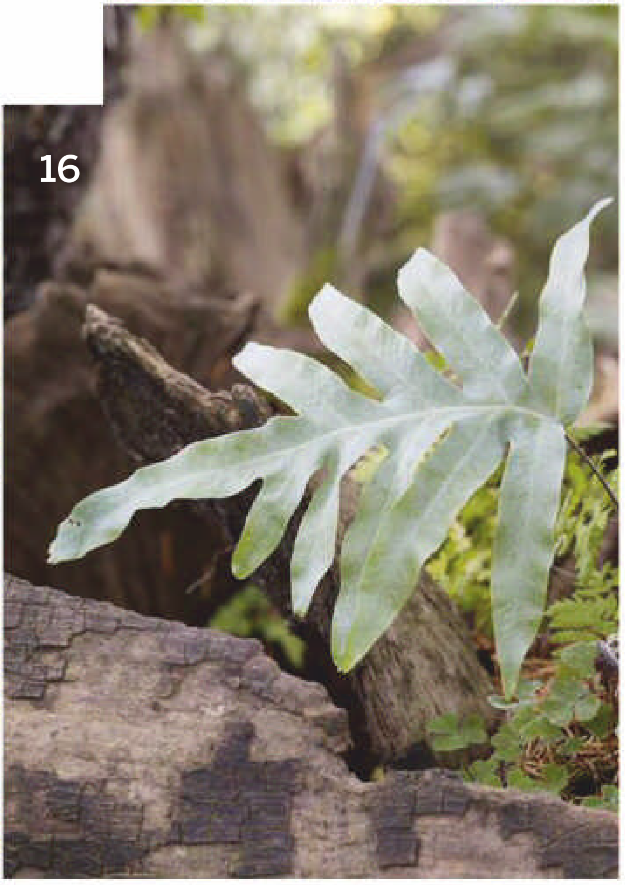
15 ***Asplenium scolopendrium* Ramomarginatum Group** An extraordinary fern with wonderful branched foliage. Grow in a sheltered site on good soil. 30cm. RHS H6, USDA 4a-9b.

16 ***Phlebodium aureum* 'Blue Star'** Normally used as a houseplant, it will persist in a sheltered site outdoors with handsome, blue-green fronds.50cm. RHS H7.

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.
†Hardiness ratings given where available.


14

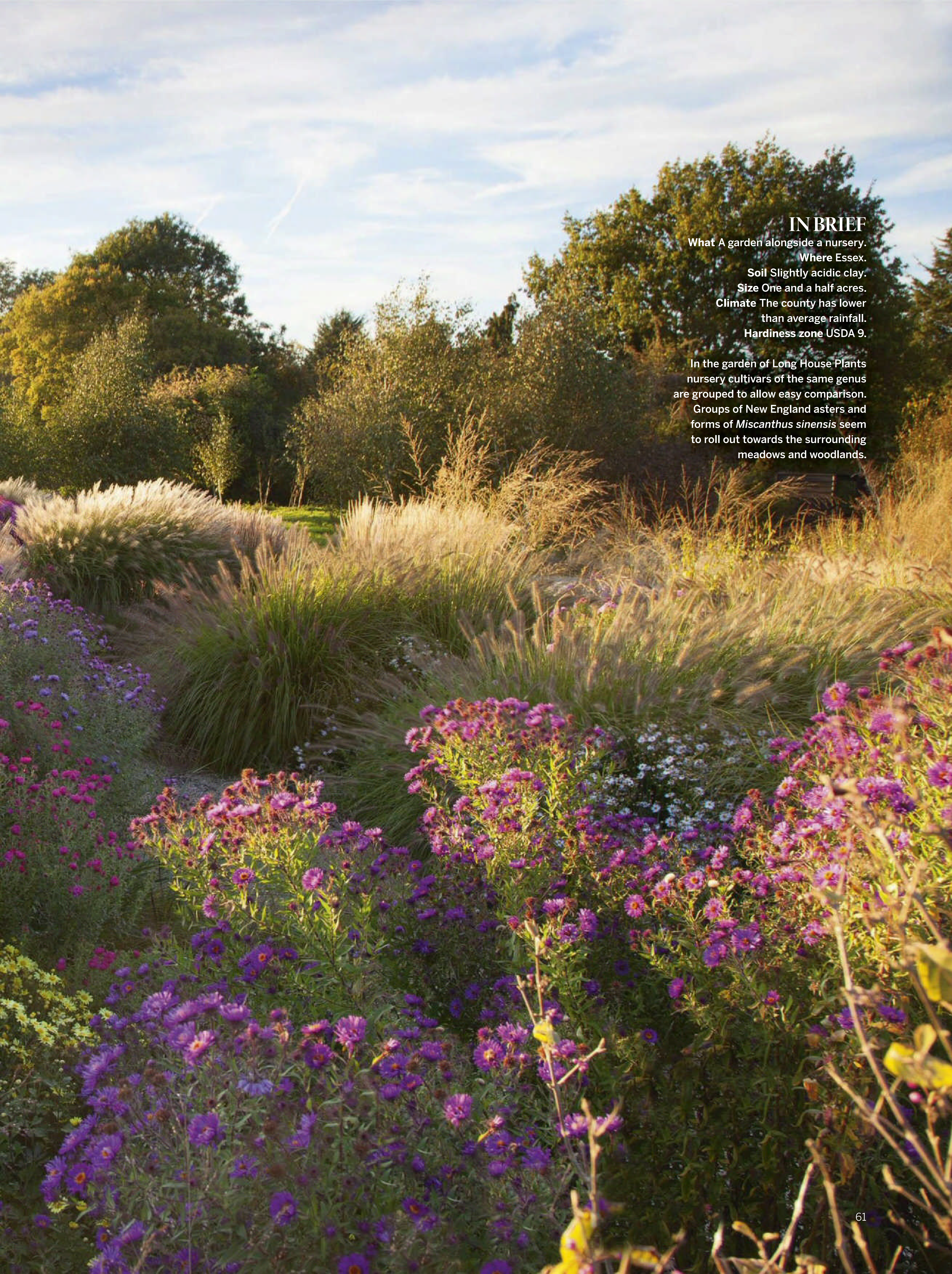

15


16

The long view

Rolling out towards the Essex countryside, the garden alongside Long House Plants offers a beautiful foretaste of how its plants will mature

WORDS **JOHN HOYLAND** PHOTOGRAPHS **ANNAÏCK GUITTENY**



IN BRIEF

What A garden alongside a nursery.
Where Essex.
Soil Slightly acidic clay.
Size One and a half acres.
Climate The county has lower than average rainfall.
Hardiness zone USDA 9.

In the garden of Long House Plants nursery cultivars of the same genus are grouped to allow easy comparison. Groups of New England asters and forms of *Miscanthus sinensis* seem to roll out towards the surrounding meadows and woodlands.

Motorists roaring along the M25 motorway are unaware of the stunning landscape of rural Essex. Just a mile or so from the traffic, near the picturesque village of Noak Hill, nurseryman Tim Carter has created a garden that sits in the rolling landscape of fields and copses, with layers of plants melding seamlessly into the meadows of the family farm. Tim has long been growing, collecting and selling plants and 14 years ago he set up Long House Plants, named after a converted heavy horse stable, and began working on the garden. The land had been used to graze cattle for decades so he spent five years clearing it, before he began making borders for his wide-ranging collection of shrubs, grasses and herbaceous perennials.

“The most important function of this garden is to provide propagation material for the nursery – but that doesn’t mean I can’t lay it out with an eye to making a beautiful space,” says Tim. A series of winding paths circle back on themselves to form beds that are filled with different cultivars of the same plant. The shape of the beds and the route of the paths have been designed looking from the house across to the fields. “I can’t see the paths because they go diagonally across and they are hidden by the planting.” The effect is to create layers of planting that roll out towards the countryside in waves.

Originally, Tim imagined looking from the house over a poppy meadow of his collection of 150 different types of oriental poppy interspersed with *Molinia* cultivars, with the farm’s hay field beyond. However, his poppy collection, like many others around Europe, was blighted by disease. Now in the foreground of his view are gravel beds, formed with a 15cm-deep mulch of gravel on top of the clay soil, which house cultivars of *Salvia* x *sylvestris* and *Salvia nemorosa* together with cultivars of *Geranium sanguineum*. The gravel is laid much deeper than in most gravel gardens because Tim finds that it helps create propagation material. “I can get my hands into the gravel and pull out roots and pieces of plant to propagate from,” he explains.

Beyond the gravel beds there are areas filled with persicarias, kniphofias, agapanthus, hesperanthas and grasses including molinias, short miscanthus, stipas, penisetums and panicums. The list of his plant collections goes on: there are daylilies, phlox and *Iris sibirica* all laid out so that customers to the nursery can compare varieties and observe the sometimes-subtle difference between them. Seeing plants in pots on a sales bench does not demonstrate their growing habit nor the way they differ from other cultivars. The only way to appreciate most grasses, for example, and to see what they will be like in a garden; to see the size they grow to, how they sway in the breeze and how they mingle with other plants. “I want this garden to inspire and to inform.”

Since the age of 12 I’ve been totally immersed in plants. I love looking over this garden and the fields around us. It feels a privilege to do this job

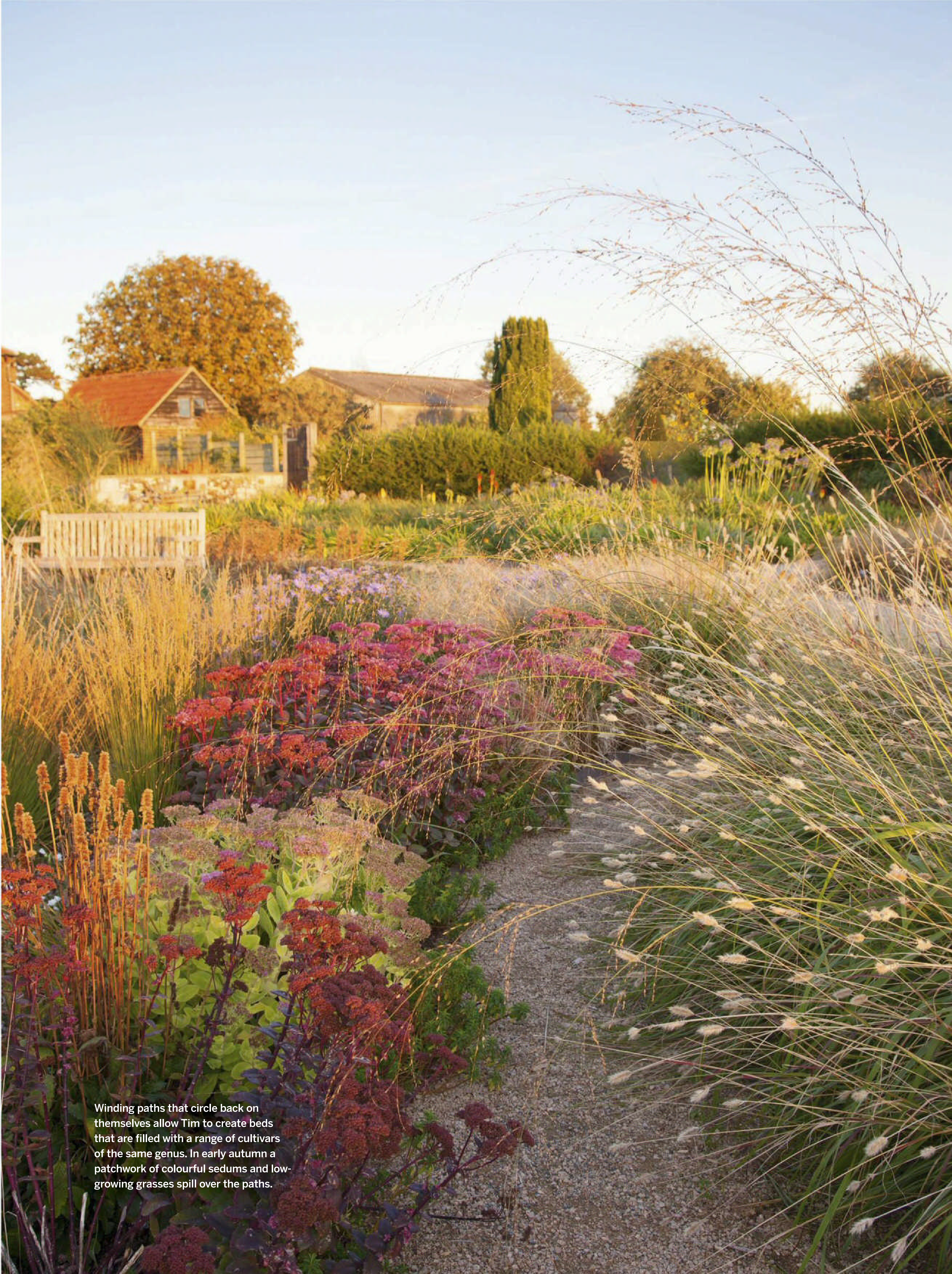
In late summer and early autumn one of the most inspiring sights in the garden is the asters where the low rays of sunlight illuminate billowing domes. The majority are New England asters, cultivars of *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*, which typically have masses of daisy-like flowers in September and October. “I prefer the New England asters because they like my clay soil, they don’t need staking and rarely get mildew, or if they do you don’t notice it because of their hairy leaves,” explains Tim. “They need dividing every seven or eight years whereas the *novi-belgii* asters need to be split every two years to keep them healthy and vigorous.” Tim leaves all his asters standing through the winter and is rewarded with flocks of goldfinches feeding on the seed.

Away from the herbaceous plants are collections of philadelphus, cornus and hydrangeas. Future plans include a winter garden, based around Tim’s collection of 200 species and cultivars of *Camellia*. The garden and nursery constitute a huge amount of work. “Since the age of 12 I’ve been totally immersed in plant,” says Tim. “I love looking over this garden and the fields around us. It feels a privilege to be able to do this job.” □

USEFUL INFORMATION

Address Long House Plants, Church Road, Noak Hill, Romford, Essex RM4 1LD. **Tel** 01708 371719. **Web** longhouse-plants.co.uk
Open The nursery is open March to September, Friday to Saturday and Bank Holidays, 10am-5pm; Sundays, 10am-4pm, and by appointment. Tim also opens his garden on selected dates throughout the year, see website for details.

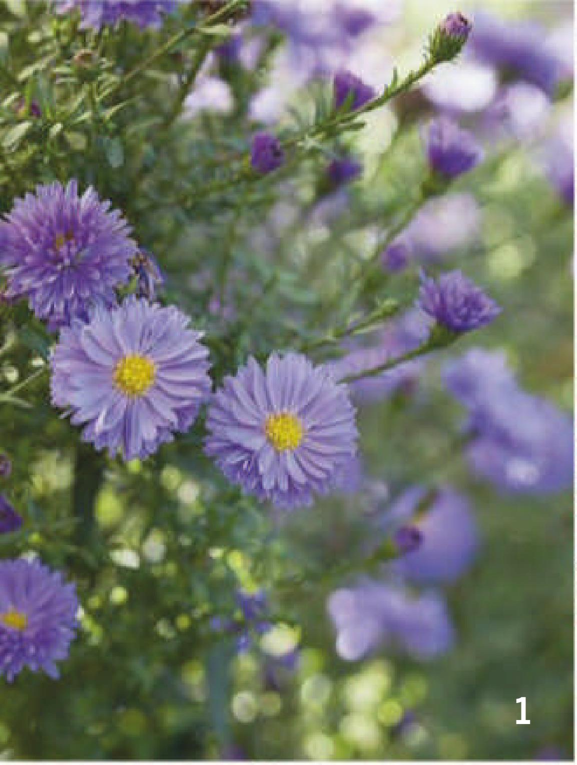
Turn the page for more of Tim’s garden and 12 key plants.

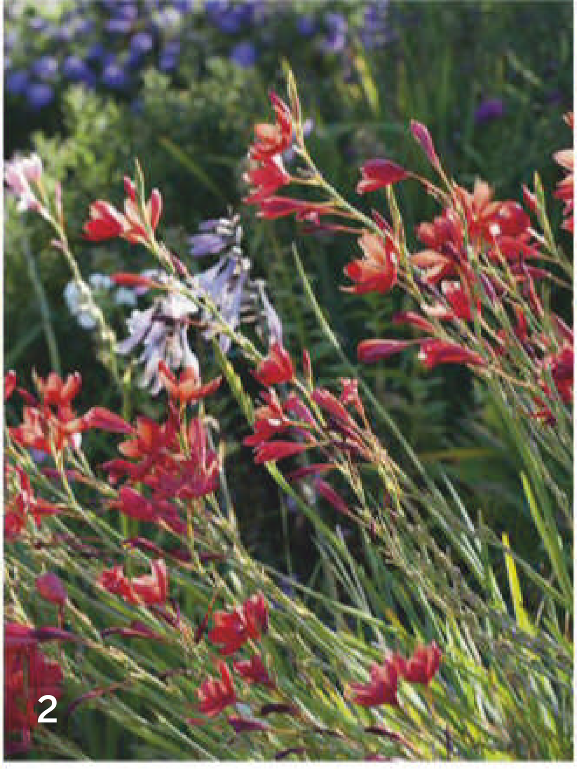


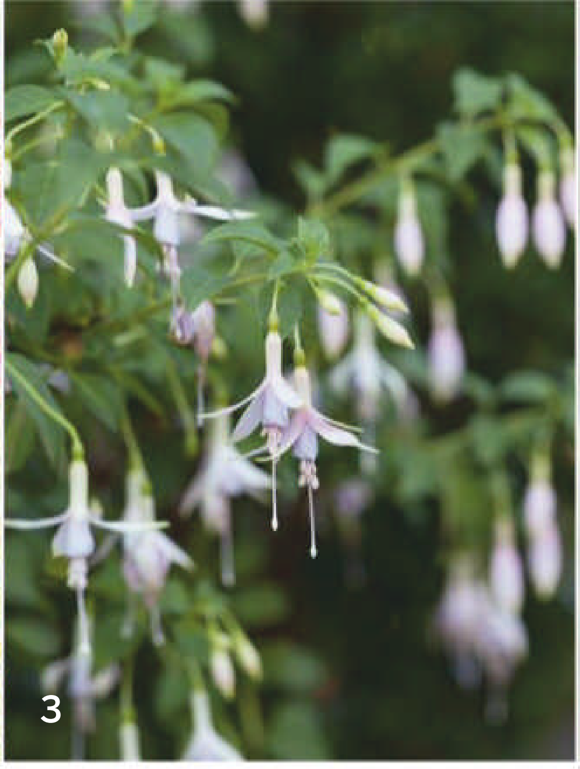
Winding paths that circle back on themselves allow Tim to create beds that are filled with a range of cultivars of the same genus. In early autumn a patchwork of colourful sedums and low-growing grasses spill over the paths.

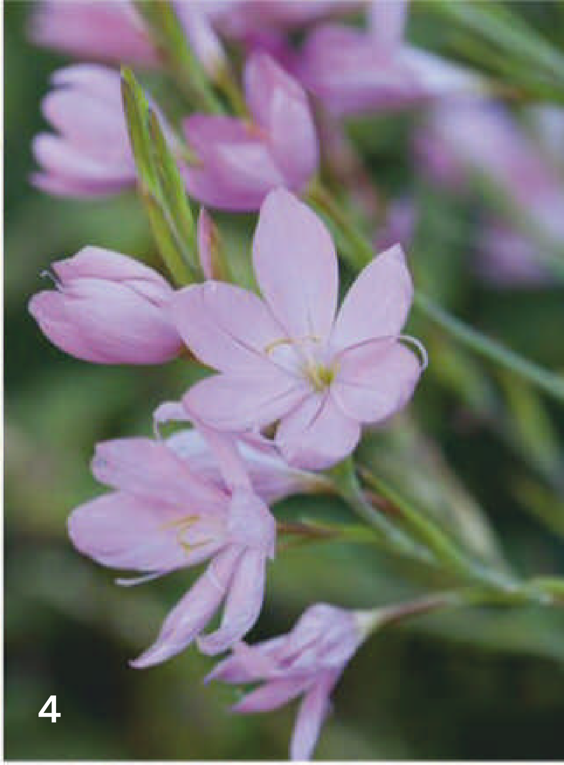
The only way to appreciate most grasses, is to see how they sway in the breeze and how they mingle with other plants

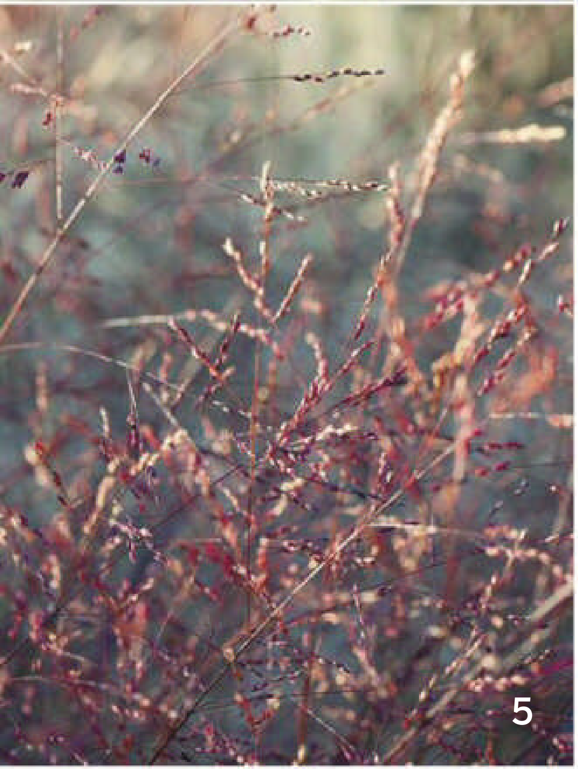
Tim has designed the garden with paths of differing widths. Where the paths are more expansive it is possible to step back and see the plants growing in a garden setting and enjoy the landscape beyond.


1


2


3


4


5

12 KEY PLANTS

1 ***Symphyotrichum* 'Sunhelene'** A recently introduced hybrid that forms a dome of blue-mauve flowers that open from grey buds. It is reputedly far less susceptible to mildew than other asters. 60-90cm. USDA 4a-8b†.

2 ***Hesperantha coccinea* 'Major'** A vigorous and floriferous cultivar with willowy stems and slim buds that open to flowers that are about 5cm wide. Few plants have flowers of such a pure red as these. 60cm. AGM*. RHS H4, USDA 7a-9b.

3 ***Fuchsia* 'Grayrigg'** A deciduous, long-flowering hardy shrub, with flowers that have pale-pink sepals and pale mauve corolla. Prefers full sun or part-shade. 1.2m. RHS H4.

4 ***Hesperantha coccinea* 'Jennifer'** The clear pink, open flowers have helped make this cultivar one of the most popular hesperanthas. It flowers in September and October and needs plenty of moisture in summer. 50cm. AGM. RHS H4, USDA 7a-9b.

5 ***Panicum virgatum* 'Red Cloud'** An upright grass that grows to 1.2m tall and is best in soil that does not dry out. 'Red Cloud' is a cultivar with russet leaves in the autumn and a froth of tiny rust-coloured flowers. 1.5m. RHS H4.

6 ***Symphyotrichum* 'Ann Leys'** The flowers resemble a green pompom with a plum centre. Originally bred for the cut-flower market, this unusual aster is becoming popular with gardeners. 75cm. RHS H4, USDA 4a-8b.

7 ***Hesperantha coccinea* 'Mrs Hegarty'** An Irish cultivar that has a reputation for blooming into November in mild autumns. Like all hesperanthas the flowers provide a contrast to the usual russet and gold tones of autumn. 50cm. RHS H4, USDA 7a-9b.

8 ***Symphyotrichum novae-angliae* 'Purple Dome'** A dwarf variety of aster that makes a mound of bright-purple flowers in September and October. On cloudy days the flowers close up but reopen as soon as the sun appears. 60cm. RHS H5, USDA 5a-8b.

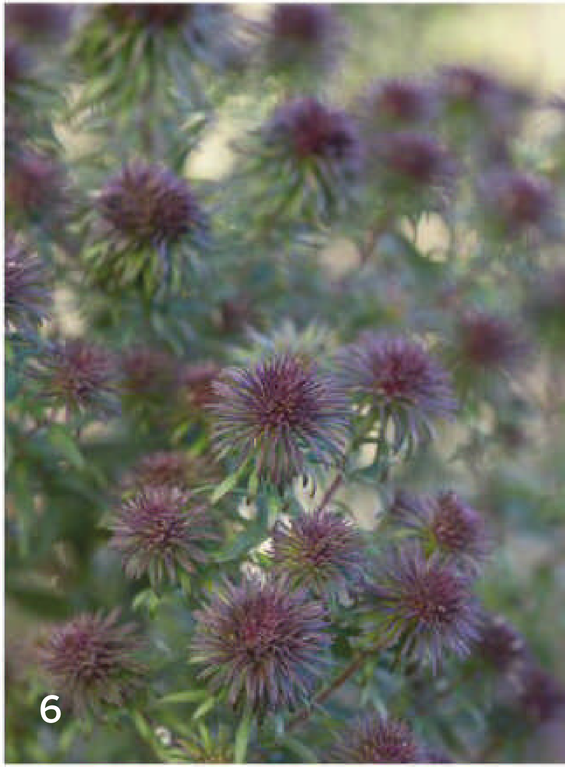
9 ***Symphyotrichum novae-angliae* 'Lachsglut'** The intense pink flowers are similar to the cultivar 'Andenken an Alma Pötschke', but with strong stems that make it a striking plant during the early autumn when it is in flower. 1.5m. AGM. RHS H7, USDA 4a-8b.

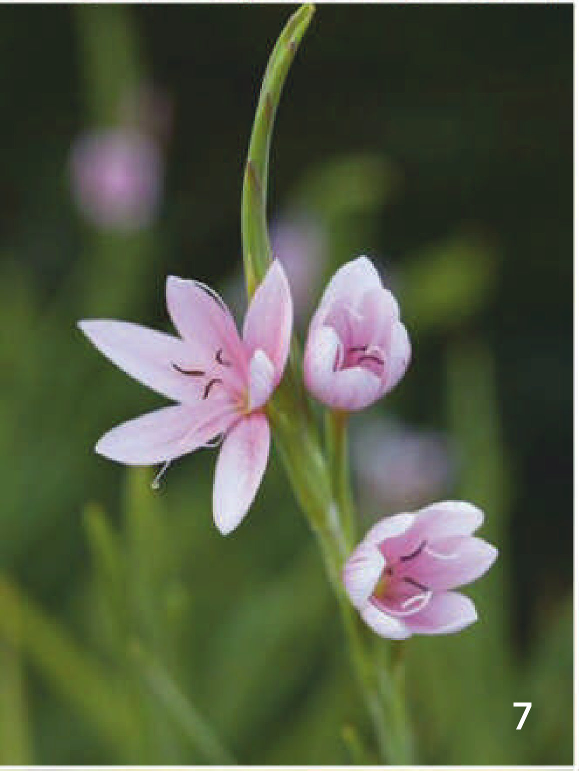
10 ***Kalimeris incisa* 'Madiva'** A tough and undemanding herbaceous perennial that is smothered in daisy-like flowers from June through to September. Although it will grow in dappled shade it flowers most profusely in full sun. 50cm. RHS H7.

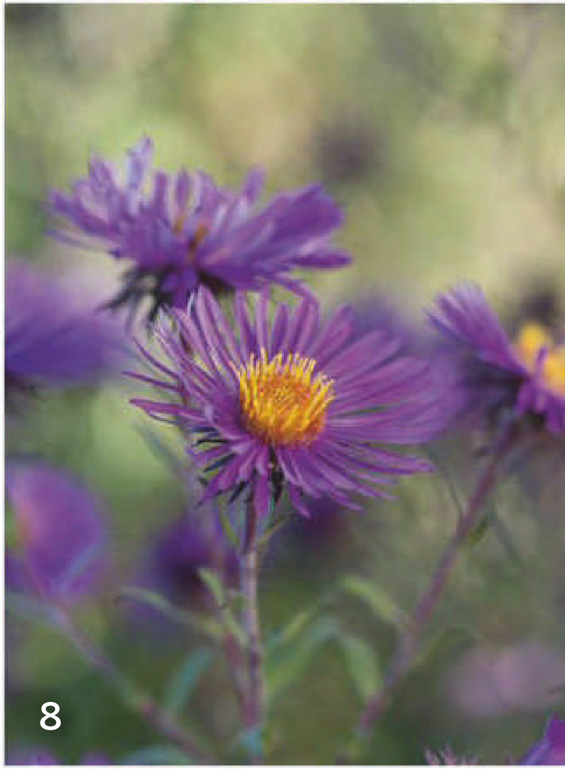
11 ***Hesperantha coccinea* 'Cindy Towe'** A relatively recent introduction, this is a strong-growing cultivar with glowing scarlet flowers that many growers consider to be the brightest of the genus. To retain their vigour, hesperanthas are best divided every three or four years. 65cm. RHS H4, USDA 7a-9b.

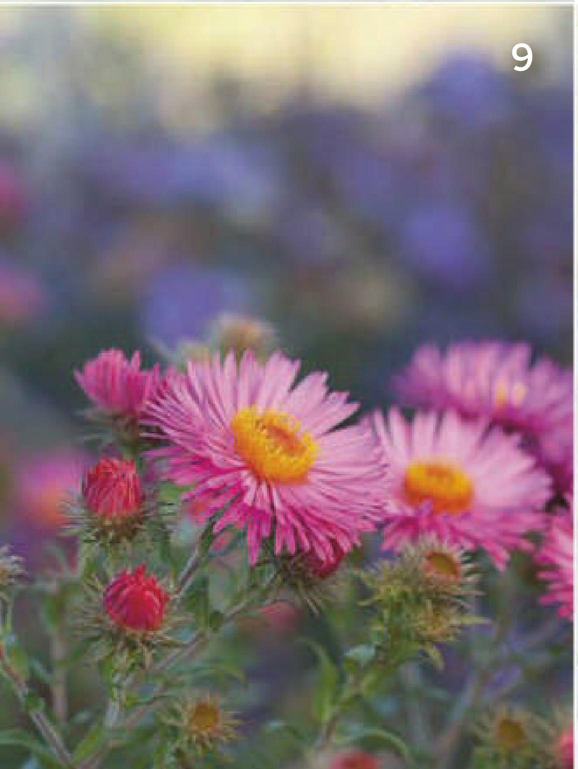
12 ***Setaria macrostachya*** A grass with millet-like panicles that are fresh green when young, and mature to a dull copper colour. Drought tolerant, it grows best in full sun. Except in very mild areas, it is best treated as an annual. 50cm. RHS H3.

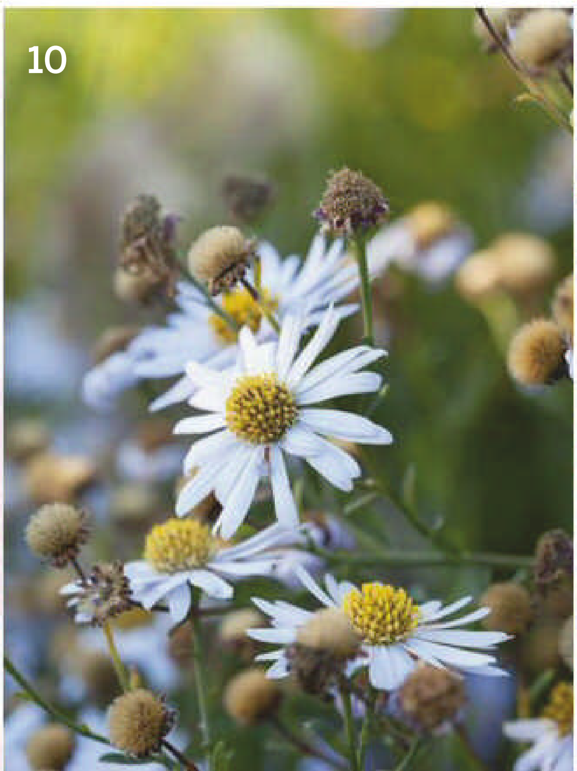
*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. †Hardiness ratings given where available.

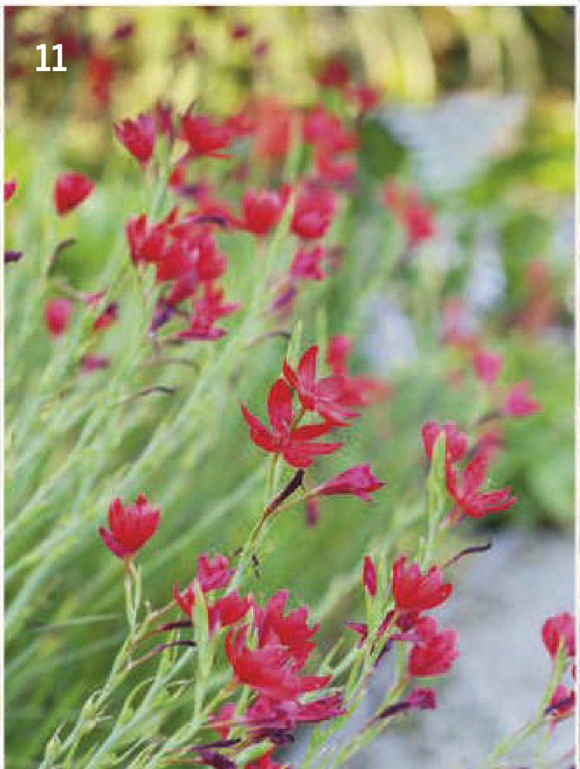

6

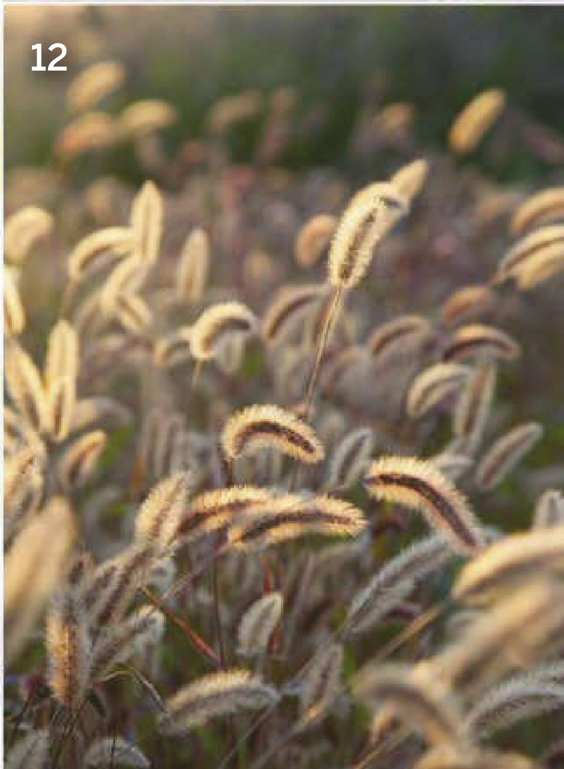

7

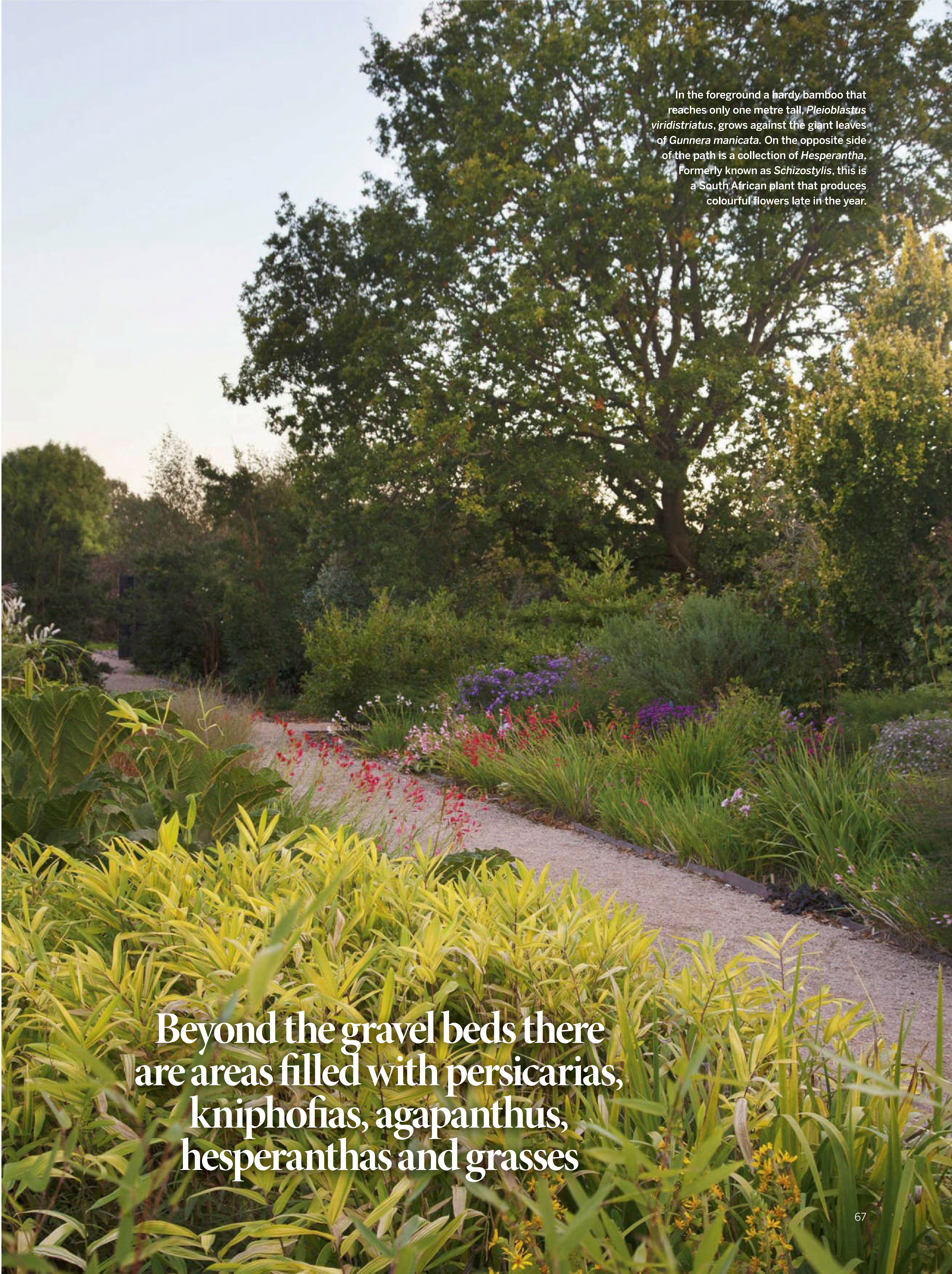

8


9


10


11


12



In the foreground a hardy bamboo that reaches only one metre tall, *Pleioblastus viridistriatus*, grows against the giant leaves of *Gunnera manicata.* On the opposite side of the path is a collection of *Hesperantha*. Formerly known as *Schizostylis*, this is a South African plant that produces colourful flowers late in the year.

Beyond the gravel beds there are areas filled with persicarias, kniphofias, agapanthus, hesperanthas and grasses

OLIVIA CHAPPLE

The co-founder of the charity Horatio’s Garden on channelling personal grief into a series of gardens that are helping to transform the lives of patients recovering from spinal injuries

WORDS LIA LEENDERTZ PORTRAIT CHARLIE HOPKINSON

Dr Olivia Chapple, chair of trustees of Horatio’s Garden, has been immersed in gardens and the outdoors since her childhood. “My father had a fruit farm and we were encouraged to play outside all the time no matter what the weather. Gardens were intertwined with my childhood life, not only at home but at the beautiful gardens of my grandparents.” It meant that she was always well aware of the good that gardens can do. “From a young age I experienced the joy that growing gives.”

She was able to first put her appreciation of the therapeutic benefits of gardening into practice for herself when training in medicine. “My first garden was on a second floor roof terrace in Islington. I had to heave bags of compost up the steep stairs. But my efforts quickly paid off and what had been a small bleak space was transformed.” It became a sanctuary for her and her husband David after long shifts as junior doctors in A&E, a comfort during stressful times, gained by creating a garden in an unlikely spot.

Olivia went on to work as a GP but a tragedy changed the course of her life. Her eldest son, Horatio Chapple, was killed in a polar bear attack on an expedition to Svalbard, aged just 17. Like his parents, Horatio’s ambition had been to become a doctor, and he had spent the past year volunteering at the Spinal Treatment Centre at Salisbury District Hospital. But like Olivia he also had a great appreciation of the therapeutic benefits of gardens. “He was a boy who loved the outdoors, and while he was volunteering he noticed that the patients, who often spent many months in the centre, had no access to outdoor space,” says Olivia. “He had decided to create a garden.” She and her husband tried to put him off at first with talk of bureaucracy and red tape, but Horatio pushed on, surveying patients and staff, and they soon realised he was determined to make it happen. By the time of his death he and the hospital chairman had identified an area of car park that could be a space for the garden, rough plans had been drawn up, and he had started raising money for it.

> IN THE AWFULNESS OF EVERYTHING, IT BECAME CLEAR WE NEEDED TO COMPLETE WHAT HORATIO HAD SET OUT TO DO

“In the awfulness of everything that happened it quickly became clear that we needed to make the garden idea work, as a focus for ourselves but also to complete what Horatio had set out to do.” There was a great outpouring of sadness and sympathy following his death, and enough money was raised to set the charity on course to go beyond even what Horatio had planned to achieve. “We found that we had enough money to do everything he had hoped to do, and to do it beautifully.”

Olivia stopped working as a GP and poured all of her time and energy into Horatio’s Garden, as the project and charity soon became known. It has been as helpful to her as it has been to the patients who have benefitted from the garden. “When you lose a child you lose all of your hopes, dreams and expectations for them in a moment, and you have to somehow find a new way to be a mother. This became mine.”

That garden at Salisbury, designed by Cleve West, was the first and set a template for what the others would need to do. For subsequent gardens the charity has also made use of experienced, high profile designers: James Alexander-Sinclair, Joe Swift and Bunny Guinness, with Tom Stuart-Smith’s design for the fifth garden at the London Spinal Cord Injury Centre opening this summer [see page 97]. Sarah Price is working on the sixth in Cardiff and Andy Sturgeon is lined up to design a seventh at the Spinal Cord Injuries Unit in Belfast. Olivia feels proud that they have taken Horatio’s idea so far. “We decided early on that we wanted to trailblaze. By choosing outstanding designers at the top of their field we set a quality standard. It showed the patients that they deserve the best, that the outside world cares for them, that they are cherished. We have changed expectations of what can be achieved in gardens in a hospital setting.”

Olivia now dedicates all of her time to working for Horatio’s Garden, leading the charity as a full time volunteer, concentrating on design and development. “This project has been a focus for my mothering,” she says. “I knew I had to create something extraordinary in the name of our extraordinary boy, and that is what this has become.” She is hugely proud of Horatio’s initial vision for the garden, and of his energy and determination to make it happen. “Horatio’s Garden was borne out of immense sadness,” she says, “but the gardens have brought such happiness, and there is not a day when I’m not told what a difference they have made to someone’s life. It has become such a fitting legacy.” □

USEFUL INFORMATION

Horatio’s Garden, 2 Throope Down Office, Blandford Road, Coombe Bissett, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP5 4LN. Registered charity number 1151475/SC045386. Tel 01722 326834, horatiosgarden.org.uk

1

BULBS FOR POLLINATORS

By carefully choosing the bulbs, corms and tubers we order now, gardeners can help provide pollinators with a reliable source of nectar. We select some of the best

WORDS **ADAM HUNT**

Insects began their pollinating love affair with plants more than 100 million years ago, and as this relationship has evolved plants have cleverly adapted to entice insects through increasingly complex and exquisite flowers laced with a dual offering of sugary nectar and protein-rich pollen. The co-operation has been so successful it is now thought that around 80 per cent of land-based plants across the world are totally dependent on these pollinating insects whose numbers continue to fall, research suggests, as a result of the use of pesticides, climate change and the loss of wildflower habitats.

As gardeners we can help reverse this by providing a diverse offering of flowering plants across as long a season as possible, and bulbs, such as crocuses, snowdrops and nerines that flower outside of the usual temperate growing season, are a vital food source. They might help an emerging queen bumblebee in early February or a small tortoiseshell butterfly fooled into waking up on an unusually warm day in midwinter.

Research has shown that insects are less concerned about whether their chosen plant is native to their locality or not, but they do fare better with species plants rather than cultivars or hybrids, as species flowers have more nectar and pollen. Species bulbs work well alongside a naturalistic planting style for borders and wildflower areas, whatever the size of a garden, and many of the species bulbs naturalise freely, creating easy to manage, early wildflower areas on lawns or under the dappled shade of fruit trees.

Species bulbs also make up the bulk of those included here. Some cultivars have crept in but all are favourites, chosen for their beauty, reliability and for their value to our wonderful and so important foraging insects in all their many forms.

WINTER AND EARLY SPRING

1 *Anemone nemorosa*
Impressive as a block of single colour. Plant in glades, under shrubs and in pots alongside one of the later snowdrops. One of our most delicate-looking native flowers. Flowers early March. 13-15cm. RHS H5, USDA 5a-8b†.

2 *Crocus* x *luteus* 'Golden Yellow'
Crocuses are one of the earliest nectar-rich flowers in spring, sought out by emerging queen bumblebees. The rich yellow of this cultivar works well against the low light levels of March. Grow in well-drained soil on a site that has sun in summer to bake the corms. March. 8-10cm. AGM*. RHS H6, USDA 3a-8b.

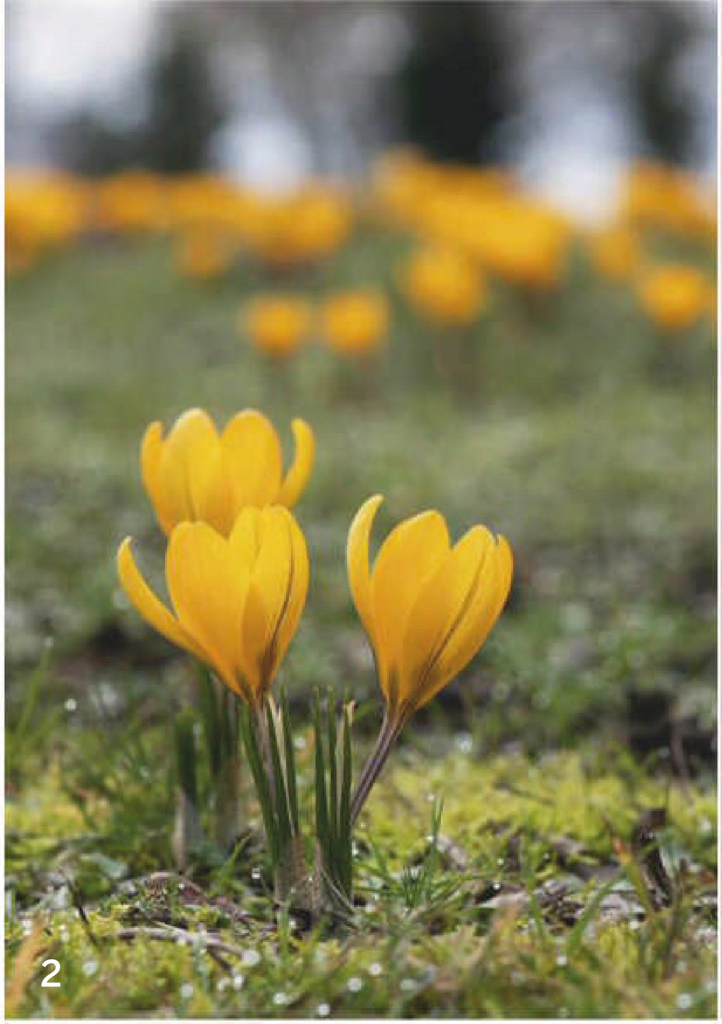
3 *Galanthus nivalis*
One of the first flowers that dares to show its head in January or February. At its best seen in large swathes carpeting the floors of woodland or the sole occupant of a pot. Its form is strangely similar to a sycamore key, and just beautiful. Mainly pure white with fresh green foliage. Late January to early February. 10cm. AGM. RHS H5, USDA 3a-7b.

4 *Eranthis hyemalis*
One of the first blooms to appear in January and much loved by bees during dry weather. Best planted in humus-rich, alkaline soil that does not dry out in summer. It will establish and naturalise under deciduous trees in light grass. Plant in the green for best success. Mid to late January. 15cm. AGM. RHS H6, USDA 3a-7b.

5 *Anemone blanda* 'White Splendour'
One of the wilder woodland anemones, it has pinkish-toned buds opening to reveal pure-white petals with masses of pollen-covered stamens. Plant under deciduous trees where they will receive plenty of light and moisture early on in spring. March. 15cm. AGM. RHS H6, USDA 4a-8b.

6 *Galanthus elwesii*
As one of the last snowdrops to flower in the season. It is a good one to combine with crocus or scilla whose blooms soon follow. If the weather is fine snowdrops will be appreciated by honeybees and hoverflies. February to March depending on weather. 12-20cm. AGM. RHS H5, USDA 4a-7b.

7 *Crocus olivieri* subsp. *balansae* 'Orange Monarch'
Named after the monarch butterfly, this is a new cultivar I can strongly recommend. The blooms are a beautiful orange – electric without being too loud – and create an exciting atmosphere in an open, naturalised planting scheme. March. 15cm.


2

3

4

5

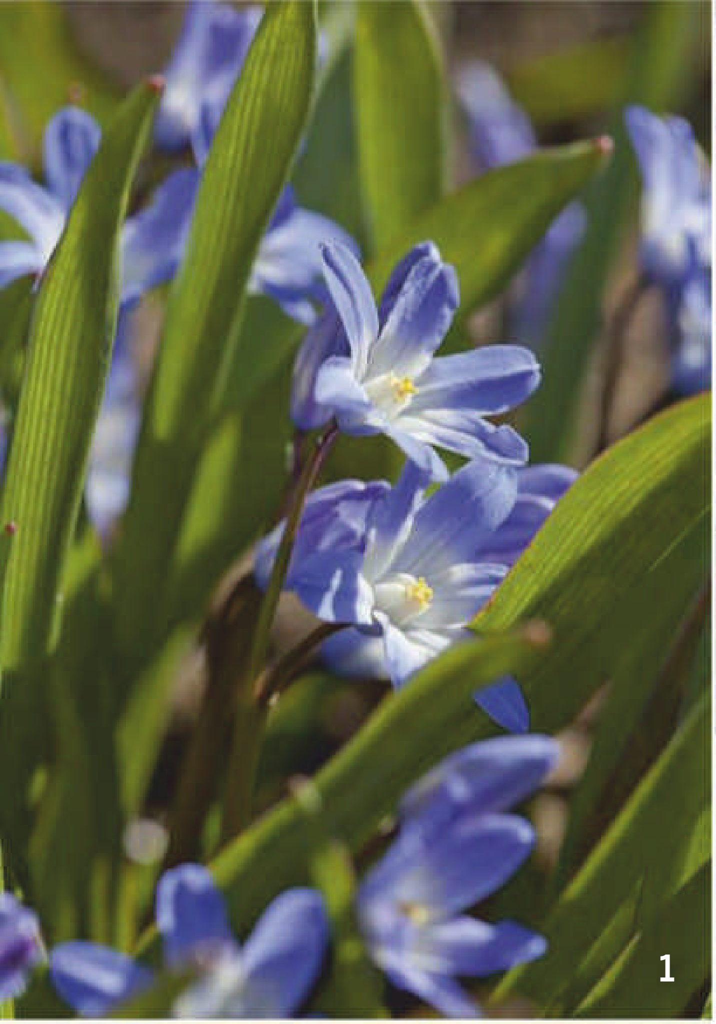
6

7

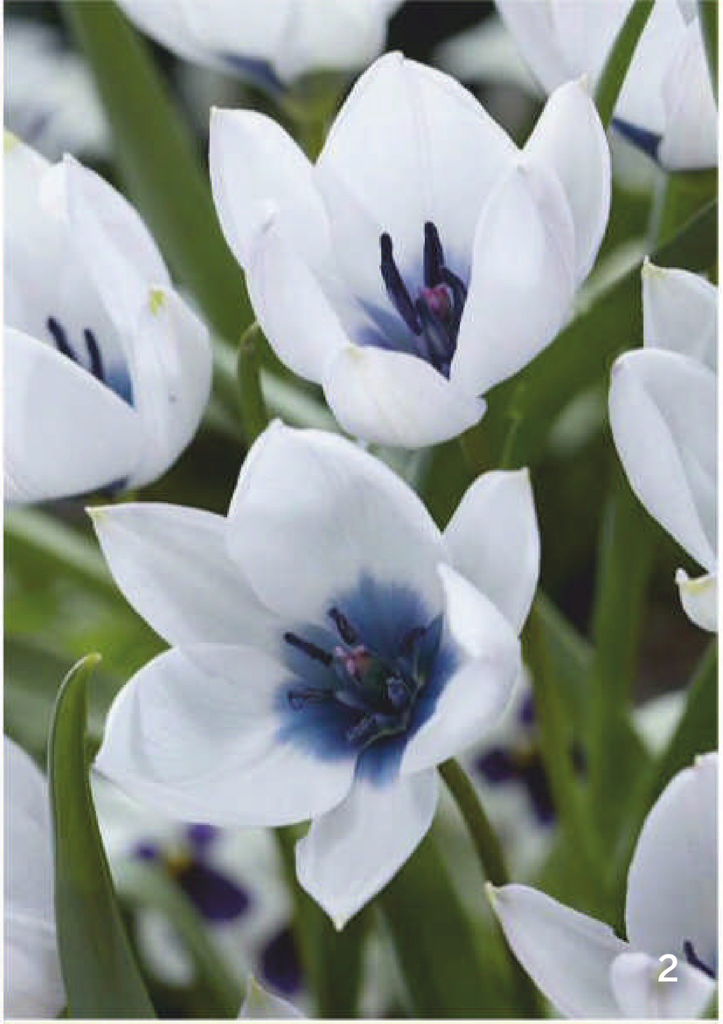
---

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. †Hardiness ratings given where available.

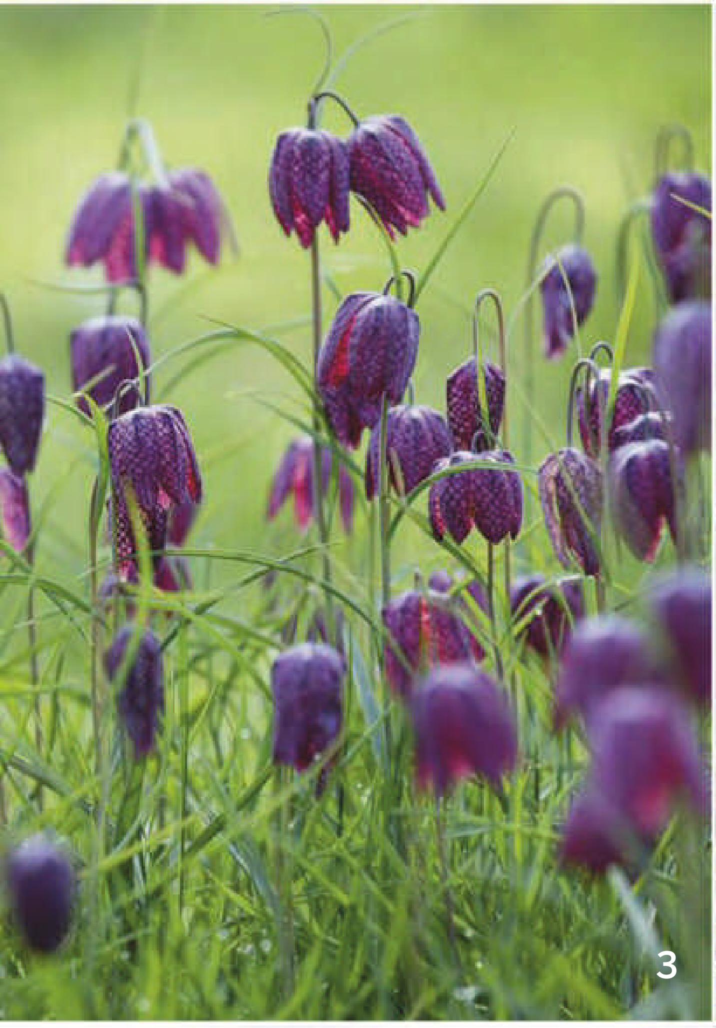
1 & 7 JUNIORS BILDARCHIV GMBH, CHRIS BURROWS / BOTH ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; 2, & 5 TIM GAINEY, TORIE CHUGG / BOTH GAP PHOTOS; 3, 4 & 6 JASON INGRAM.



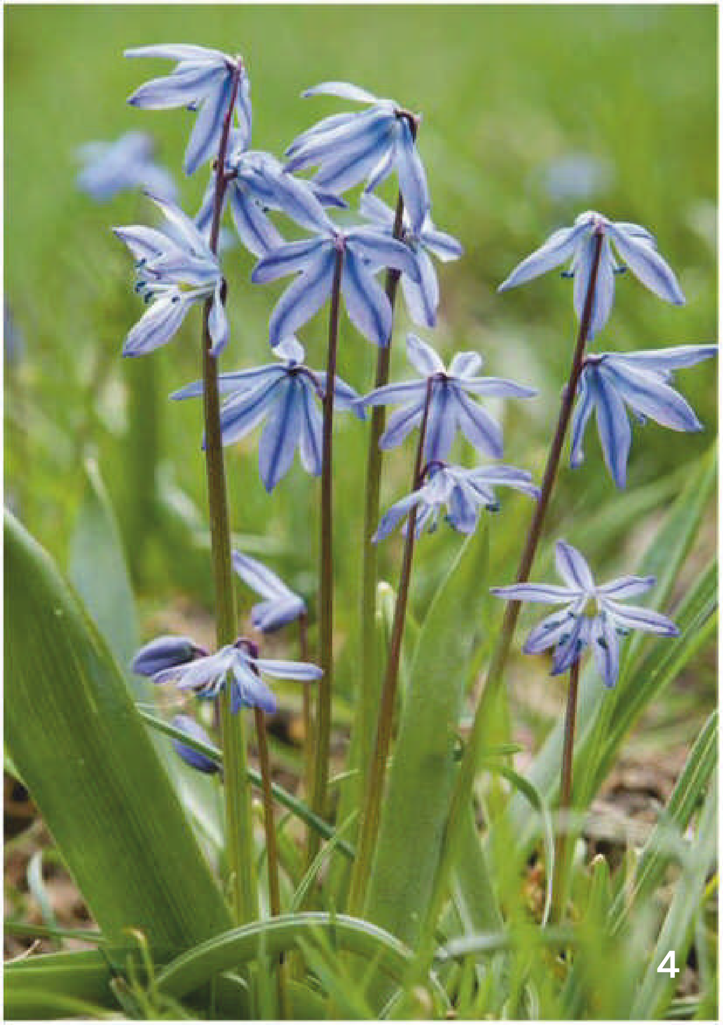
1



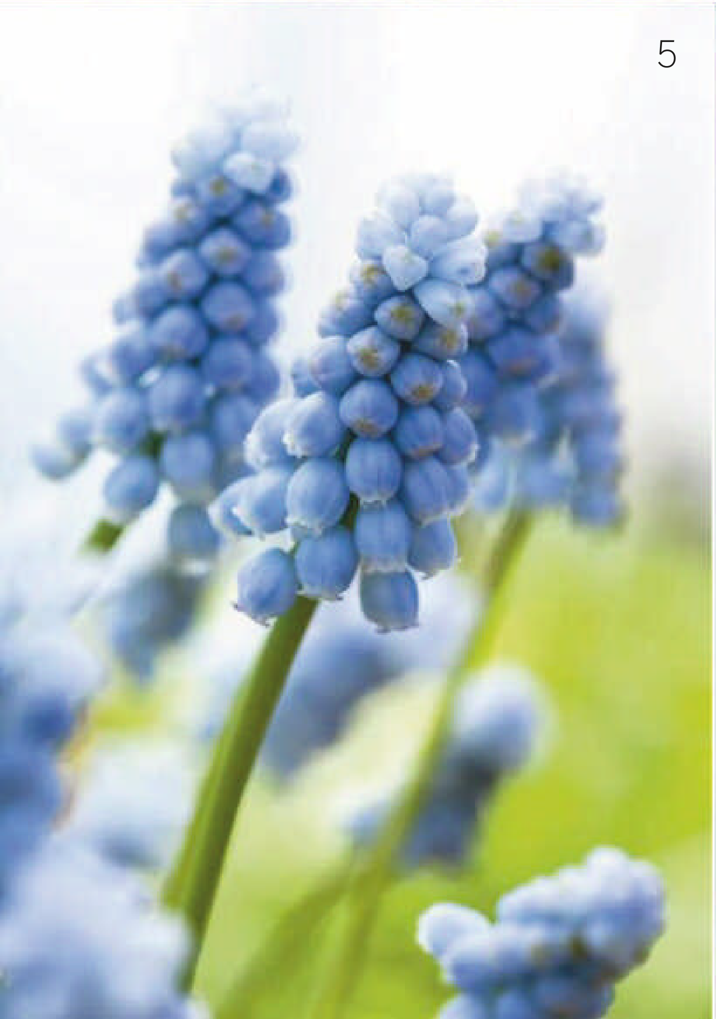
2



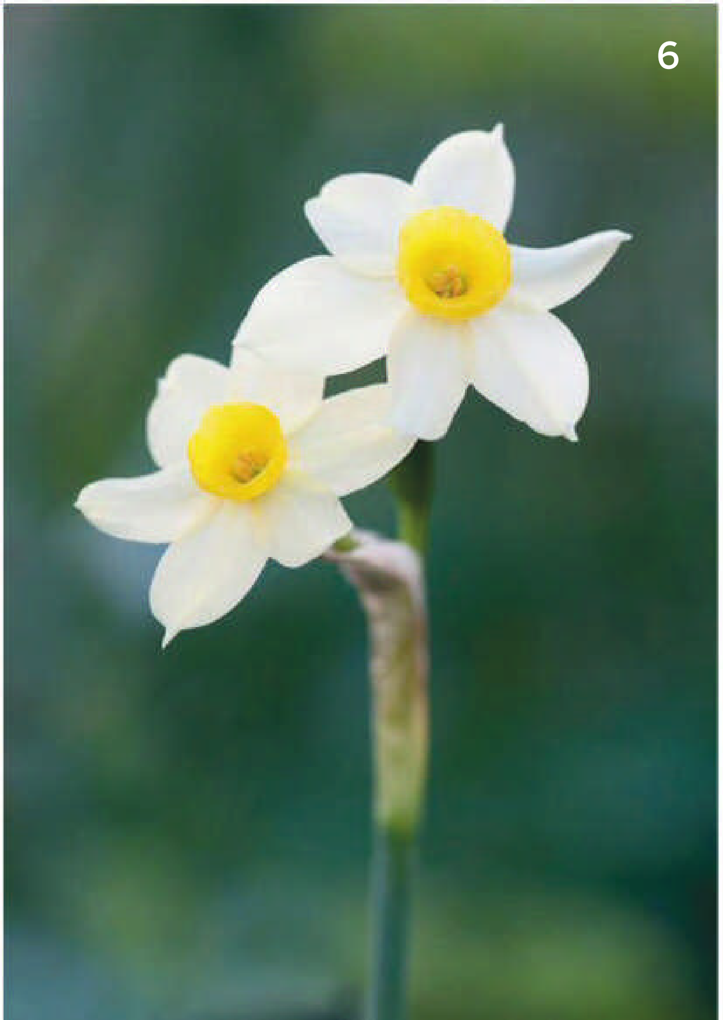
3



4



5



6

SPRING

1 *Scilla* 'Blue Giant'
Blue, star-like flowers with bright, white centres. An easy bulb to grow on loam soil given morning sun and afternoon shade. It loves a seaweed feed when in active growth. Late March. 15cm.

2 *Tulipa humilis* var. *pulchella* Albocaerulea Oculata Group
This dwarf tulip is a rare and special variety that works best tucked into pots, rockeries or little crannies where it is easily viewed as well as accessible to pollinators. Delicate white and violet blue in tones. Combines well with similar petite bulbs such as scilla and woodland anemone. April. 45cm. RHS H5.

3 *Fritillaria meleagris*
Fritillaries grow well in damp, humus-rich soil that is free draining and can naturalise happily in grasslands or meadow conditions. Start them off in pots, with five bulbs in a 9cm pot, then as foliage appears in spring, carefully remove the bulbs with as little root disturbance as possible, and plant into their final position. Plant with *F. pyrenaica* and *F. meleagris* var. *unicolor* subvar. *alba*, which also enjoy the same conditions. April. 30cm. AGM. RHS H5, USDA 3a-8b.

4 *Scilla siberica*
This scilla is the best performer for naturalising in light lawns and part-shade. The blue nodding bell flower begins before other scillas have started and has a long blooming period. A rewarding bulb, producing more than one stem from each bulb. We love to plant it under magnolias and deciduous shrubs such as *Viburnum plicatum* f. *tomentosum* 'Mariesii'. March to April. 15cm. AGM. RHS H6, USDA 2a-8b.

5 *Muscari armeniacum* 'Valerie Finnis'
While all muscari are attractive to bees, *M. armeniacum* is the most favoured and a better choice than *M. neglectum,* which can sometimes be more invasive. In full bloom it can attract gangs of honeybees and other pollinators, such as plume moths and solitary bees. We love 'Valerie Finnis' for its paler blue colour. Naturalise in grasslands to disguise the foliage and create an early spring carpet of blue. March. 16cm. AGM. RHS H6, USDA 4a-8b.

6 *Narcissus* 'Minnow'
A sweet and dainty miniature narcissus from the Tazetta group but unlike other Tazettas this one will naturalise in fine grass and humus-rich soil. Deadhead religiously when the flower goes over, leaving the foliage to die down naturally. Early April. 20cm. AGM. RHS H6, USDA 5a-9b.

1 & 2 TOMMY TONSBERG, VISIONS PREMIUM / BOTH GAP PHOTOS; 3 RICHARD BLOOM;
4 & 6 ICPIX_CAN, JOHN MARTIN / BOTH ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; 5 RACHEL WARNE.

7 *Tulipa clusiana*
Tulips are not renowned as plants for pollinators, but they are such an essential element of a spring garden, and if you include just one, then the lady tulip is possibly the best. Its flowers have attractive dark-pink stripes on its outer petals that widen in the sunshine to produce a star, and the stunning purple markings on its basal stem are sheer beauty. Best to plant deeply in a shaded area. Mid-April. 30-45cm. AGM. RHS H6.

8 *Camassia leichtlinii* subsp. *suksdorfii*
The North American wild hyacinth; this species comes in many beautiful tones of blues as well as whites. Unbeatable in clump form, naturalises in damp, fertile grass in sun or preferably light shade. Pairs beautifully with *Narcissus poeticus* in a meadow or planting scheme. I also like to use *Camassia quamash*, which is neater and bluer. May. 80cm. RHS H4, USDA 5a-9b.

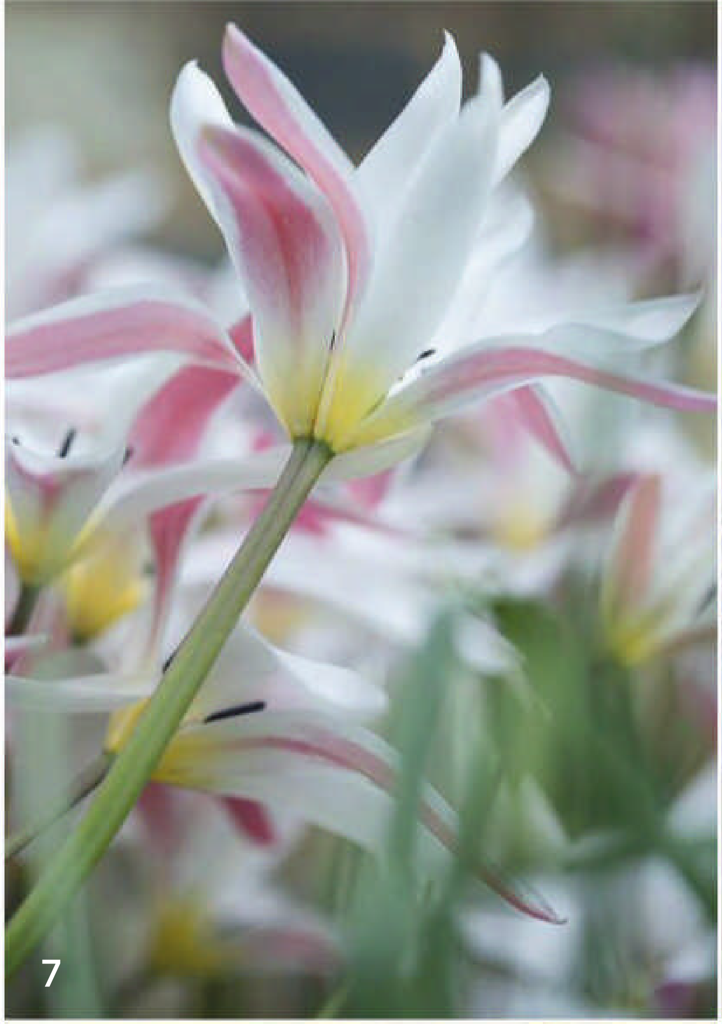
9 *Erythronium californicum* 'White Beauty'
Delicate, pendular white flowers elegantly hang above mottled leaves. Flowers hang downwards to protect pollen from rain and are as much loved by honey bees, bumble bees and solitary bees as by gardeners. They prefer a slightly acidic, humus-rich soil. Plant in light shade alongside *Anemone nemorosa* and *Corydalis flexuosa* for a beautiful spring combination. April. 15cm. AGM. RHS H5.

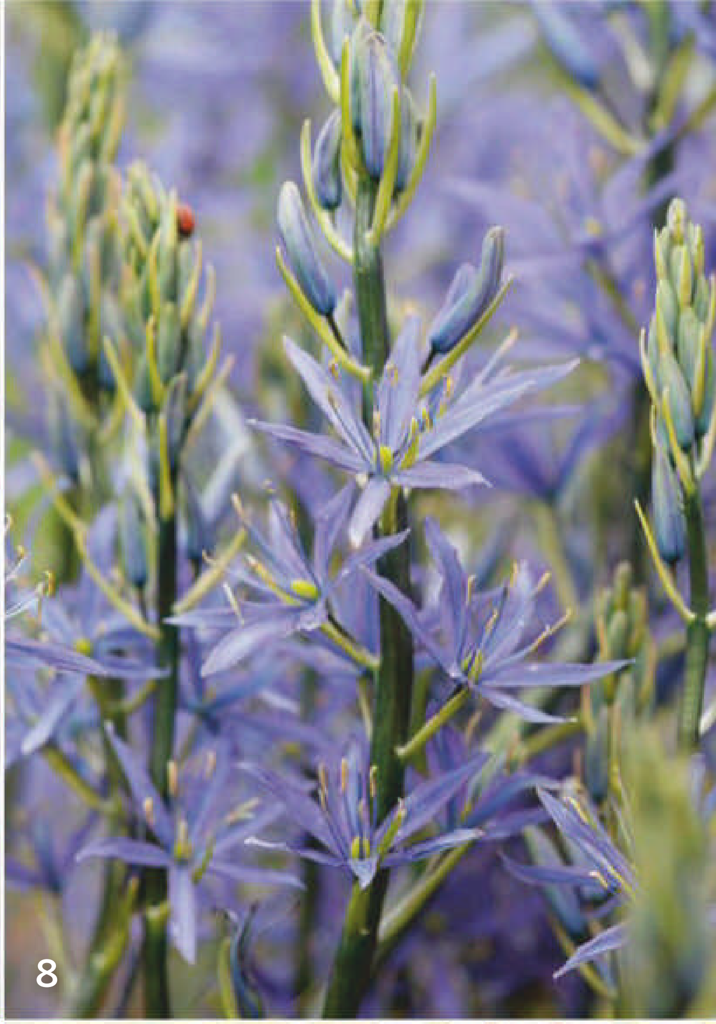
10 *Ornithogalum umbellatum*
A lovely example of our native flora, the species is a superb pollinator and an often under-explored delight. Fantastic naturalising bulbs for wild places, borders and pots with long lasting blooms for vases. Plant alongside cowslips and narcissi. Early May. 25cm. RHS H6, USDA 4a-9b.

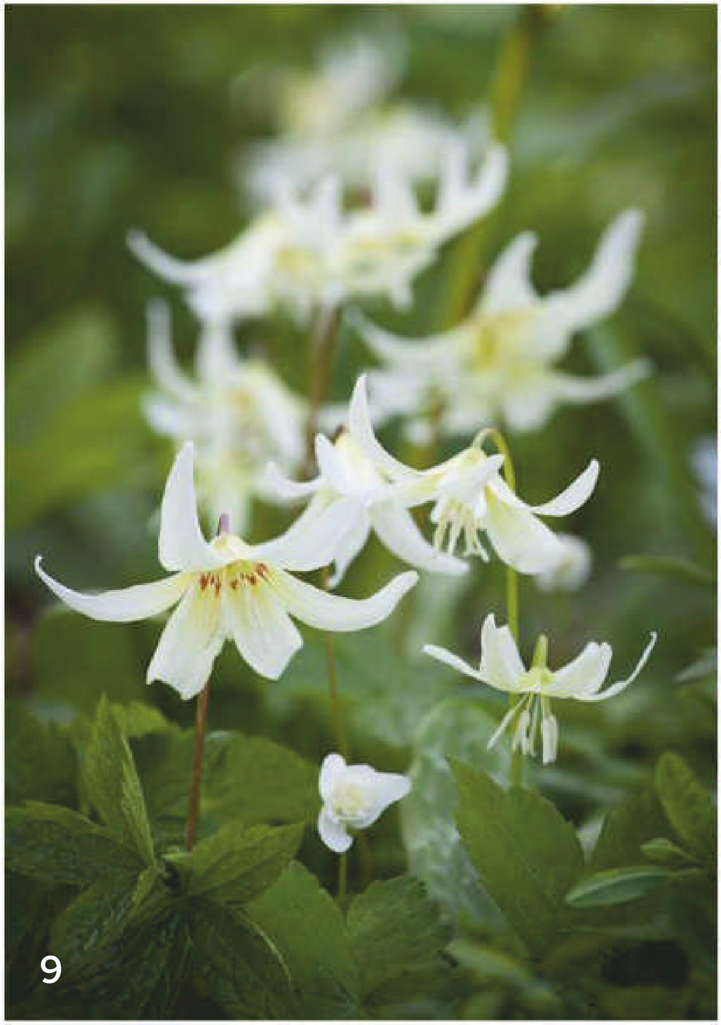
11 *Narcissus poeticus*
This sweet-scented, elegant narcissus has swept-back, pure-white petals with a red rimmed yellow cup centre. With a longer stem in comparison to its flowerhead it creates such elegance. If it dries out fully its flower will abort, so plant 20cm deep in damper soil. Dislikes disturbance. Often sold as *N. poeticus* var. *recurvus*. Late April to early May. 55cm. AGM. RHS H6, USDA 3a-7b.

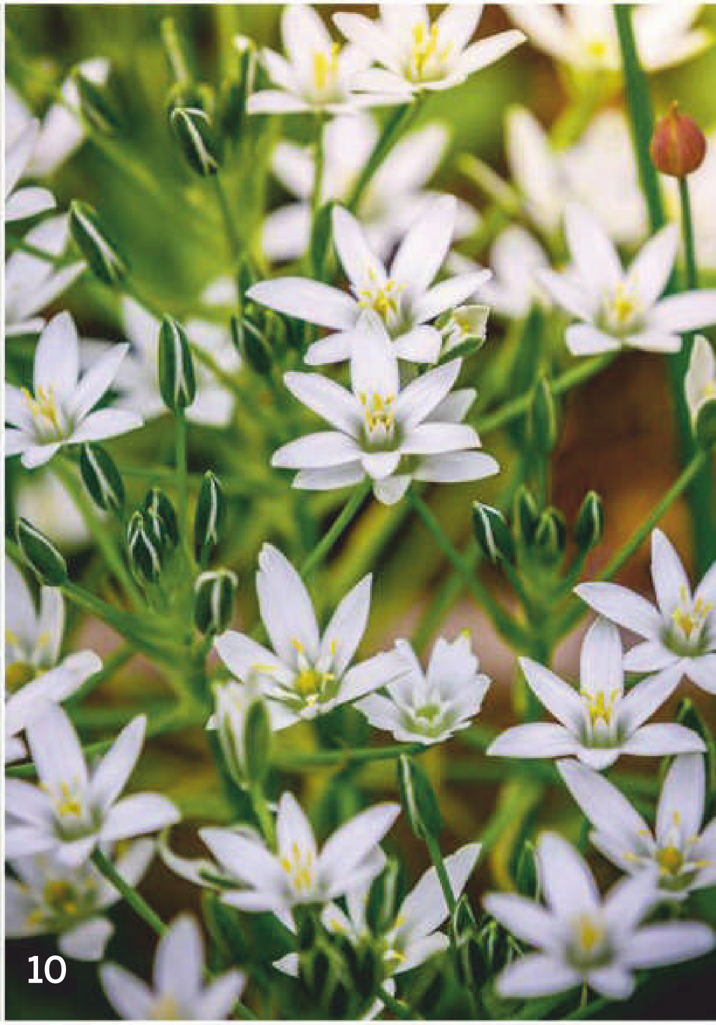
12 *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*
A dramatic show of wild bluebell carpets makes a walk in woodlands a pleasurable spring tradition. In the garden these English bluebells can be planted along hedges and under trees in partial shade. Much loved and savoured by brimstone butterflies and solitary bees. Late April to early May. 35cm. RHS H6, USDA 3a-8b.

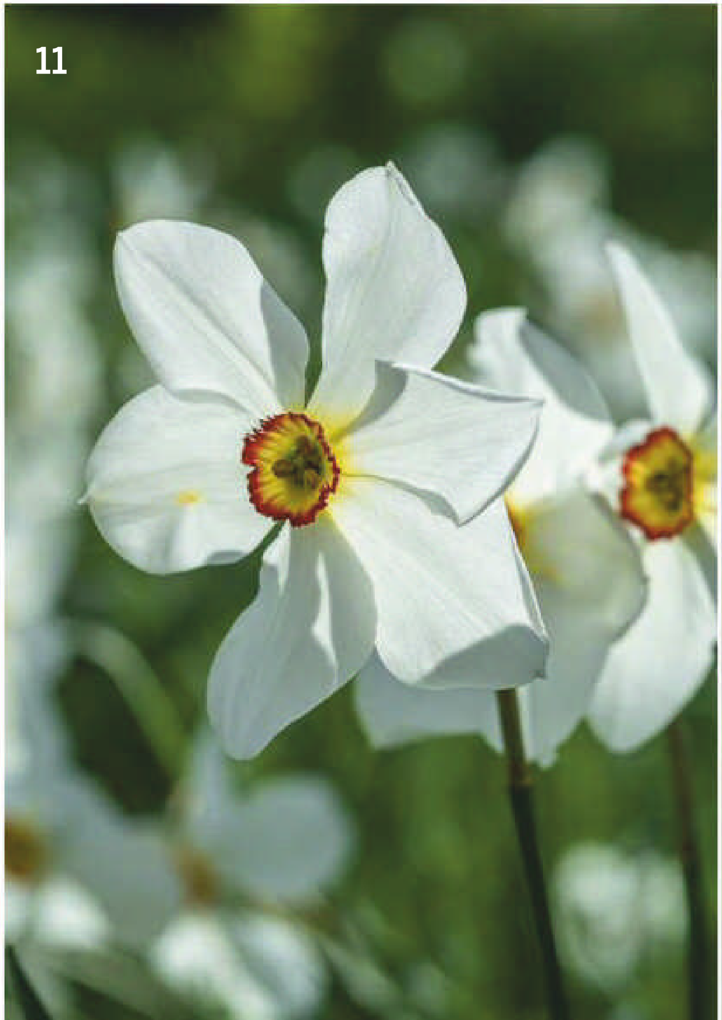
7, 9 & 11 FIONA RICE, JONATHAN BUCKLEY, MARK BOLTON / ALL GAP PHOTOS;
8, 10 & 12 JOHN MARTIN, OLEG BELOV, ANDREW CHAMBERLAIN / ALL ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

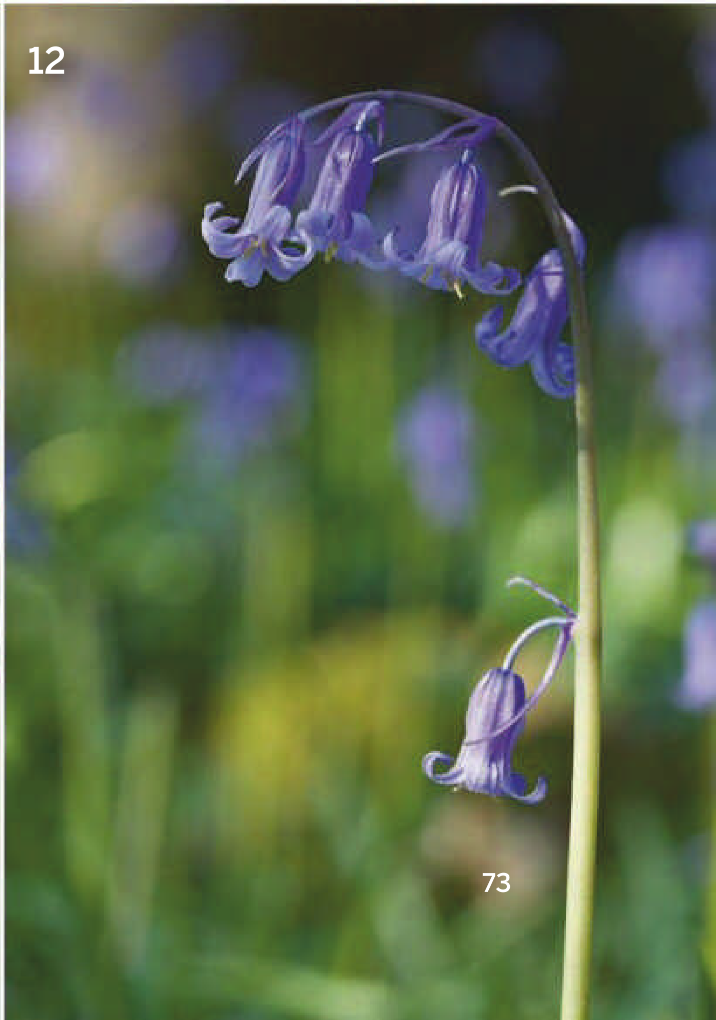

7

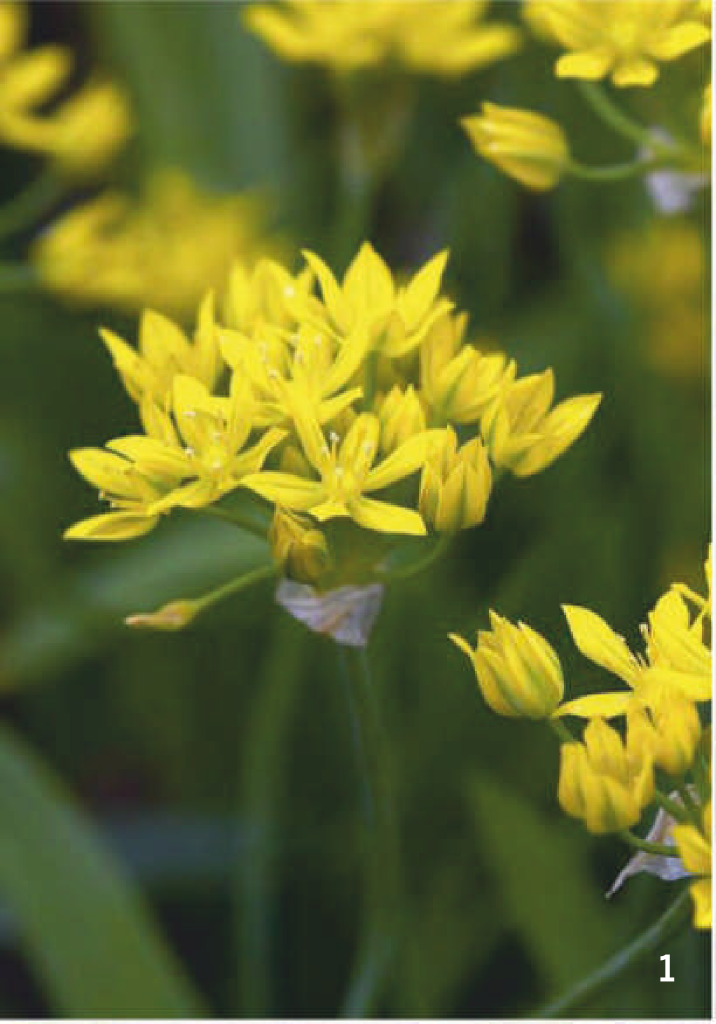

8

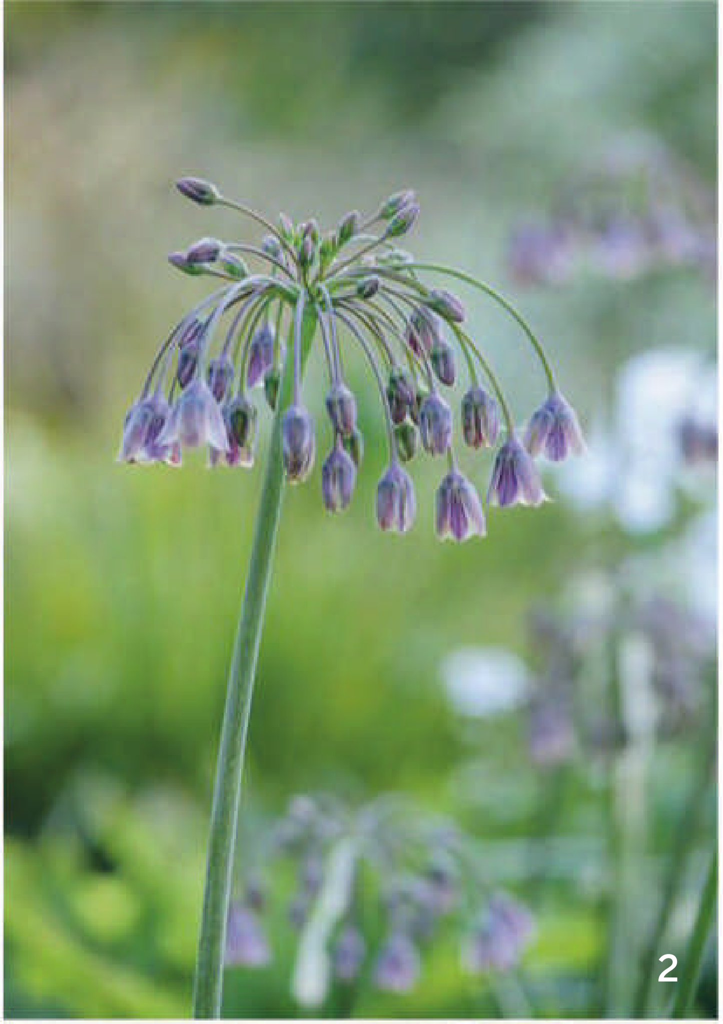

9

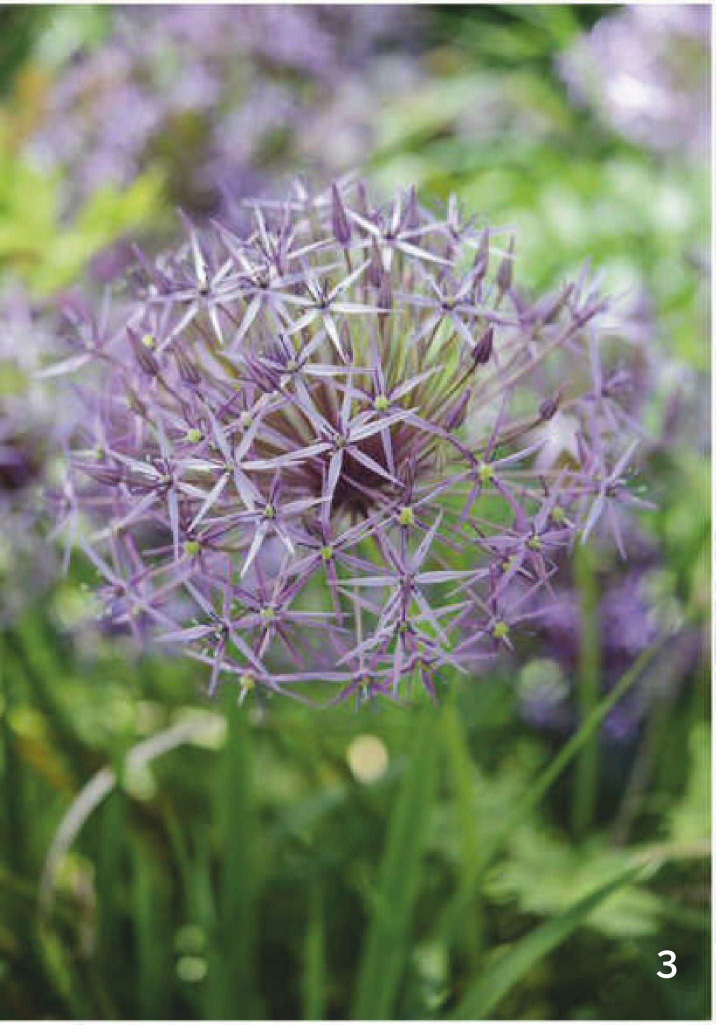

10

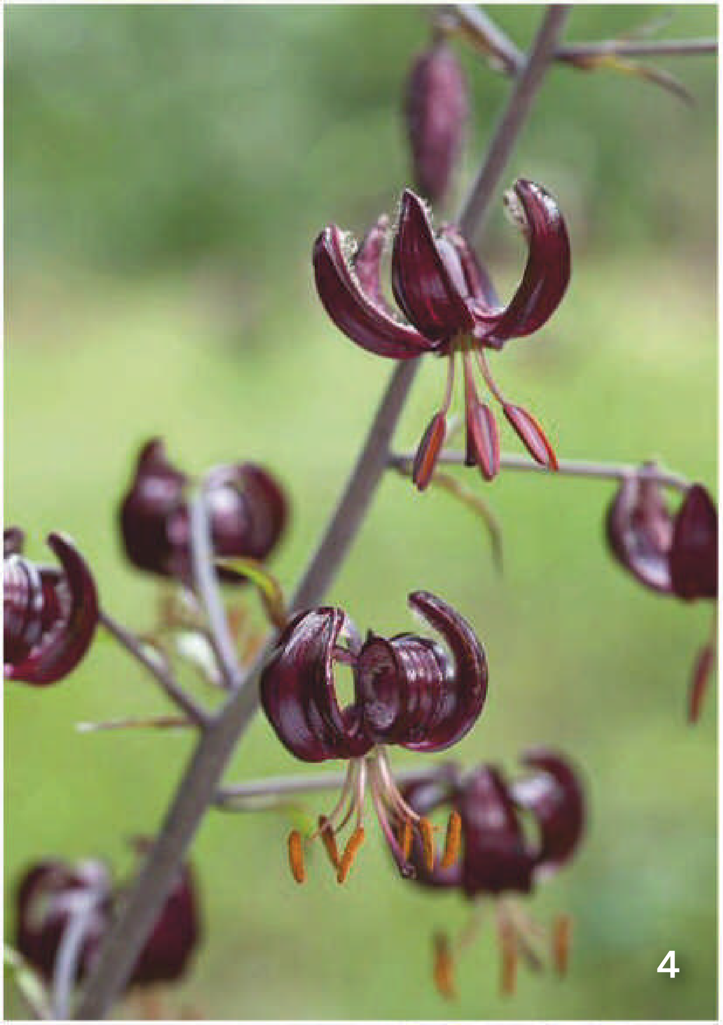

11

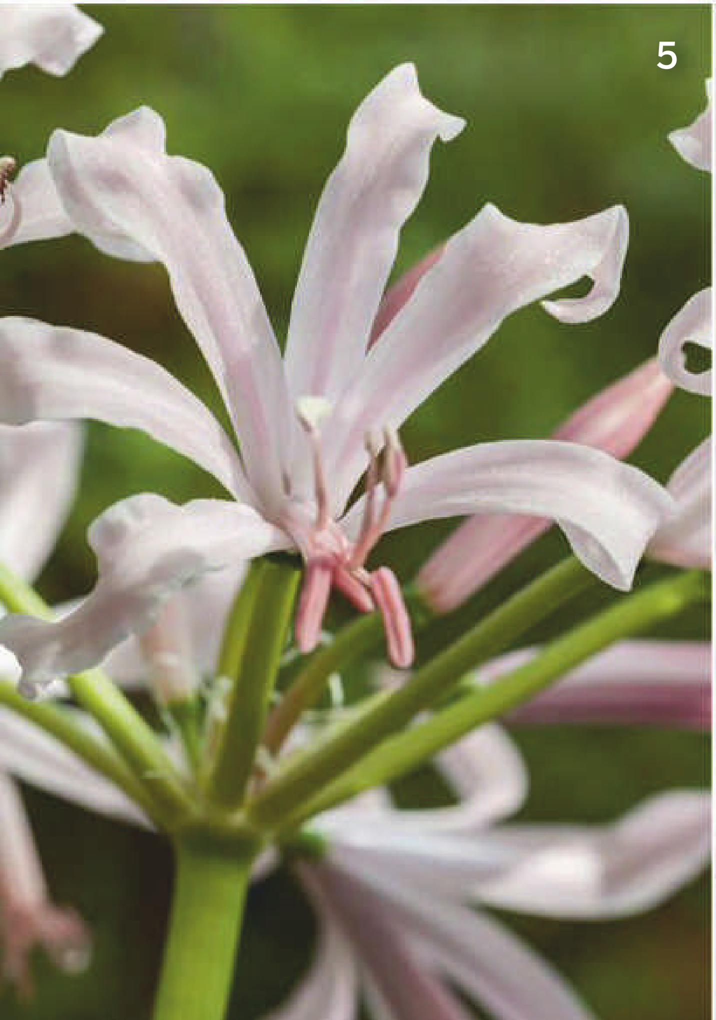

12

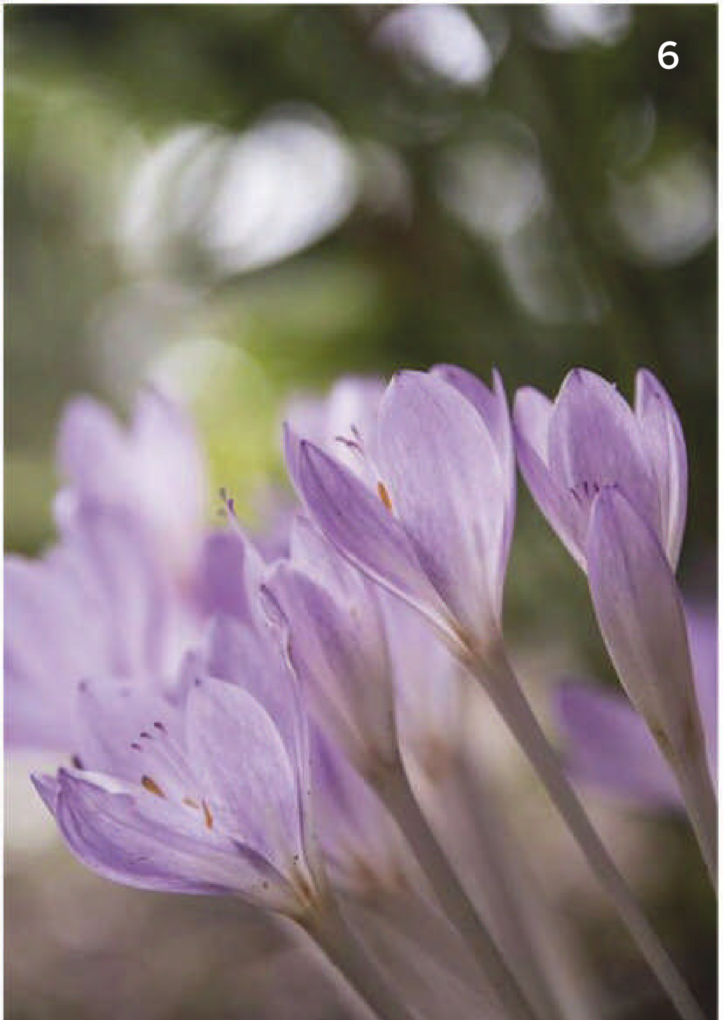

1


2


3


4


5


6

LATE SPRING, SUMMER AND AUTUMN

1 *Allium moly* 'Jeannine'
One of the best sources of pollen and nectar in equal quantities, alliums are also a lot of fun. This one has a golf ball head with yellow stars and is much loved by butterflies and humming bird moths. May to June. 20cm. AGM. RHS H6, USDA 3a-9b.

2 *Allium siculum*
Hard to germinate organically, but I adore it; as do bees. Tall stems reveal clusters of cream and bronze bells. Plant in wilder areas with shorter grasses, such as *Deschampsia cespitosa*. Early May. 85cm.

3 *Allium cristophii*
Large spherically shaped heads, each packed with star-like, pinkish-purple flowers, offer rich provisions for bees, moths and butterflies. Stems are short and flowerheads heavy, so provide support through an underplanting of, for example, *Stipa tenuissima* or a low-growing lavender. June. 60cm. AGM. RHS H5, USDA 4a-8b.

4 *Lilium martagon* var. *cattaniae*
Turk's cap flowers with petals so dark and shiny they almost glow – truly an artist's flower. These are fragrant bulbs that attract nocturnal pollinators, such as night moths and bats, who eat insects from the flowers as well as drinking nectar. Late June. 60cm.

5 *Nerine bowdenii* 'Patricia'
A dormant summer bulbous perennial that blooms in late September and flowers into November. The leafless stems elegantly rise, where the buds explode into a wavy, recurved, nine-petalled flower. In colder areas *N. undulata* 'Alba' offers even later and longer blooms. Late September. 50-70cm.

6 *Colchicum autumnale*
This has nectar that is only accessible to insects with a long proboscis. Pollinators include moths and butterflies. Works best in damp, fertile meadows but its also suited to gardens with similar conditions. September. 15cm. RHS H5, USDA 4a-8b.

7 *Lilium pyrenaicum*
Its scent is not to everyone's liking but bees and moths love it. Easy to grow, quick to clump in neutral or slightly alkaline soil. A good option for naturalising in lightly shaded grassland. June. 50cm.

• *Gardens Illustrated* readers can receive 10 per cent off a selection of spring-flowering bulbs from Organic Bulbs. Turn to page 106 for details, and turn the page for some of our favourite bulb suppliers.

1, 4, 5, 6 & 7 TOR E CHUGG, ANNAÏCK GUITTENY, JOHN GLOVER, CHRIS COGGINS, TIM GAINEY / ALL GAP PHOTOS; 2 & 3 JASON INGRAM

7

WHERE TO BUY BULBS

A selection of some of the best suppliers offering a good choice of bulbs that put insects to the fore

AVON BULBS

Regular award winner with an impressive range of bulbs that includes many favourites alongside more unusual bulbs, rhizomes and corms, such as *Dichelostemma* from northwest America and the star-like *Ornithogalum*, including *O. pyrenaicum* or Bath asparagus, native to the west of England. Good pollinator-friendly choices are flagged up with a bee logo. Tel 01460 242177, avonbulbs.co.uk

BLOMS BULBS

Trading in bulbs and plants for 160 years with an extensive range of spring-flowering bulbs including old favourites and new cultivars that have proven their worth. Tel 01234 709099, blomsbulbs.com

BROADLEIGH GARDENS

Full range of bulbs including exclusive collections chosen for specific locations or themes. But perhaps the real joy here is the Special Bulb List of more unusual choices, including an extensive selection of miniature daffodils, which are proving increasingly popular. Tel 01823 286231, broadleighbulbs.co.uk

CROCUS

Search under 'organic bulbs' for an increasing choice of spring-flowering bulbs that have been sustainably grown without the use of pesticides (including neonicotinoids). This also includes dahlia tubers (available from winter). crocus.co.uk

DE JAGER

An established supplier for more than 150 years, and with 720 varieties available, including the rare and unusual *Pancratium maritimum* or sea daffodil, found in the wild on sandy Mediterranean shores. Insect-friendly choices are flagged up with the RHS Perfect for Pollinators logo. Tel 01622 840229, dejager.co.uk

FRUIT HILL FARM

Ireland's organic farm and garden specialist – also delivering to the UK – offers a range of certified organic spring-flowering bulbs – and (for veg growers) garlic too, which is another bulb that's worth planting in the autumn. Tel +353 (0)27 50710, fruithillfarm.com

HARTS NURSERY

Good range of bulbs from this award-winning nursery with a number of new introductions to the 2020 range and planting advice for each genus. While you are perusing the spring-flowering selection, note that Harts is known for its award-winning displays of lilies so take a look at its range, including oriental lilies, species lilies and martagon types (order this winter for delivery and planting come spring). Tel 07855 785540, hartsnursery.co.uk

JACQUES AMAND

Large and wide-ranging selection of autumn-planted bulbs, especially narcissi and tulips, including a good selection of species tulips. Nursery at Clamp Hill in Middlesex can also be visited for picking up orders. Tel 020 8420 7110, jacquesamandintl.com

J PARKER'S

Reliable selection of bulbs here to satisfy both the expert and those keen to try out bulb growing for the first time. There's a handy RHS Award-Winning Tulip category, corralling together those options that have been given an Award of Garden Merit helping you make good, tried-and-tested choices. Tel 0161 848 1100, jparkers.co.uk

NATURAL BULBS

As a Dutch company working with a small group of organic growers, Natural Bulbs offers a good range of spring-flowering bulbs, including a selection specifically chosen for bumblebees and bees, and another with varieties chosen for their suitability to naturalising and landscaping schemes. Tel +31 (0)235 477 900, naturalbulbs.co.uk

NIJSSEN BULBS

Dutch bulb company with plenty of choice of bulb varieties including a large range of historic tulips and specially chosen Bee-Friendly selection packs. Do take into account the cost of delivery to the UK, but this established bulb nursery uses no neonicotinoids and has a page outlining the company's environmental approaches to growing bulbs on a large scale. Tel +31 (0)23 547 1056, nijssentuin.nl

ORGANIC BULBS

Garden designers Lulu Urquhart and Adam Hunt set up Organic Bulbs to offer gardeners a stylish selection of ecologically friendly bulbs – all pesticide and chemical free with a particular emphasis on bulbs that look good in naturalised schemes and return year on year. Tel 01373 888720, organicbulbs.com

THE ORGANIC GARDENING CATALOGUE

Along with its full range of organic seeds, veg, fruit and plants, the Organic Gardening Catalogue includes a small but perfectly formed collection of organically produced bulbs, including the insect-pleasing *Camassia leichtlinii*. Tel 0344 967 0330, organiccatalogue.com

PETER NYSSEN

Over 60 years in the business, Peter Nyssen has moved with the times and now guarantees that its spring-flowering bulbs are neonicotinoids free and packaging is biodegradable where possible. Good for bulk buying too with free delivery on orders over £100. Tel 0161 747 4000, peternyssen.com

RIVERSIDE BULBS

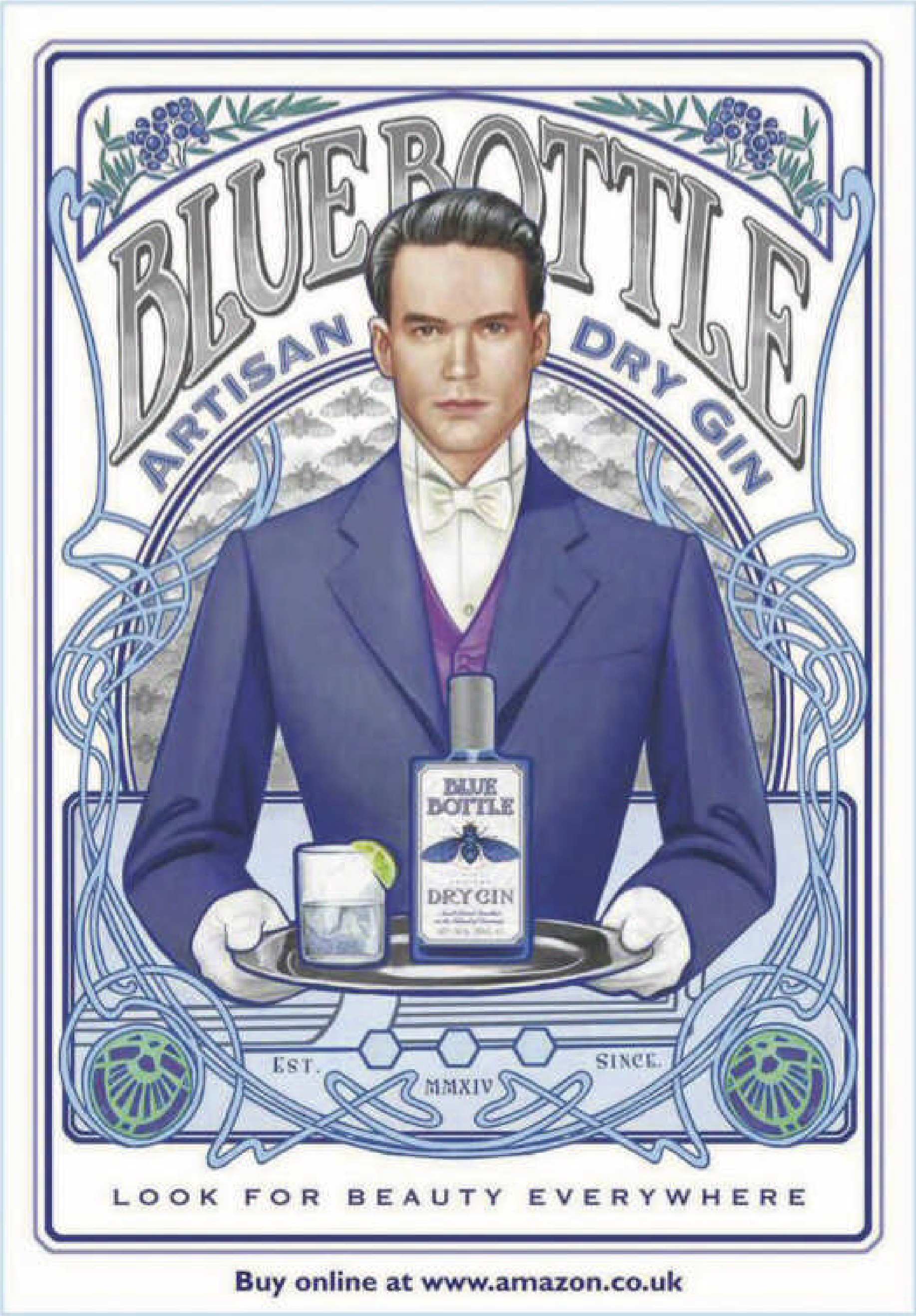
Selection of popular bulbs offered in smaller or larger quantities. Also lists a selection of bulbs and tubers perfect for the cutting garden. Tel 01449 741551, riversidebulbs.co.uk

SARAH RAVEN

Helpful site for making stylish choices of bulb combinations, perfect for the garden and also the cutting garden. Sarah tries and tests all the collections she offers, and adds new choices to the list each year to reflect current styles and trends. There's also a section for more naturalised displays and a selection for indoor growing. Search for Sarah's article 'Pollinator Super Plants' for extra advice on pollinator plant choices. Tel 0345 092 0283, sarahraven.co.uk

SHIPTON BULBS

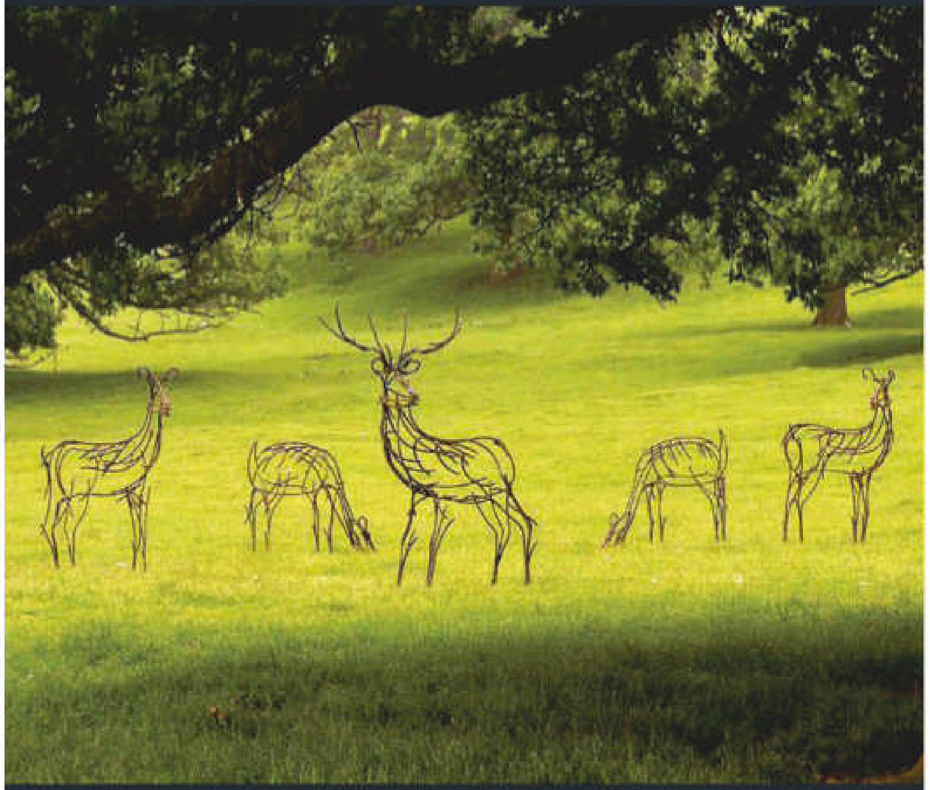
Based in Wales, Shipton specialises in garden-worthy bulbs native to the British Isles and bulbs originating elsewhere that are also suitable for naturalising in this country. These will all be reliable choices for UK growing success. Tel 01994 240637, shiptonbulbs.co.uk



Buy online at www.amazon.co.uk

LIFE SIZE ANIMAL SCULPTURE

Free UK delivery



www.andrewkaysculpture.co.uk

07740 306412

Garden Masterclass

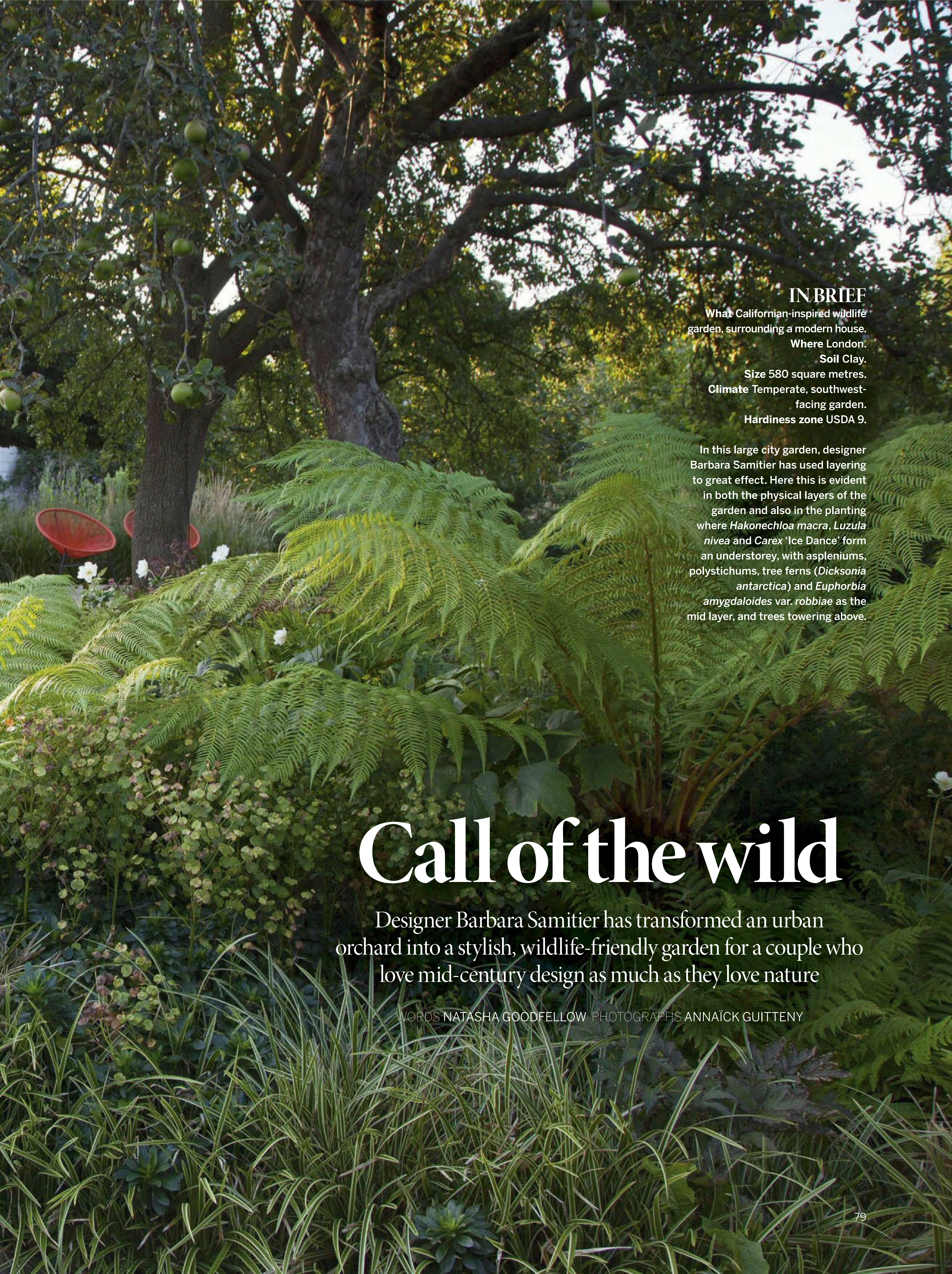
SUPPORTED BY

ALITEX™
GREENHOUSES AND CONSERVATORIES

Curated by garden designer Annie Guilfoyle and horticulturalist Noel Kingsbury, Garden Masterclass is a place where gardeners, designers and landscape architects come together to learn and share their experience and knowledge. The list of tutors includes some of the most innovative people in the gardening world.

Our extensive online programme continues with inspirational webinars and a free weekly broadcast every Thursday at 6pm UK time. Full details for up and coming events can be found on: gardenmasterclass.org/online

For booking and details of all workshops go to
gardenmasterclass.org
or email gardenmasterclass@gmail.com



IN BRIEF

What Californian-inspired wildlife garden, surrounding a modern house.
Where London.
Soil Clay.
Size 580 square metres.
Climate Temperate, southwest-facing garden.
Hardiness zone USDA 9.

In this large city garden, designer Barbara Samitier has used layering to great effect. Here this is evident in both the physical layers of the garden and also in the planting where *Hakonechloa macra*, *Luzula nivea* and *Carex* 'Ice Dance' form an understorey, with aspleniums, polystichums, tree ferns (*Dicksonia antarctica*) and *Euphorbia amygdaloides* var. *robbiae* as the mid layer, and trees towering above.

Call of the wild

Designer Barbara Samitier has transformed an urban orchard into a stylish, wildlife-friendly garden for a couple who love mid-century design as much as they love nature

WORDS NATASHA GOODFELLOW PHOTOGRAPHS ANNAÏCK GUITTENY

Designers are regularly asked for wildlife gardens, and for spaces that complement the house. What was different here is that the house is an architect-designed, mid-century building, constructed from engineering bricks, concrete and copper, and that the clients loved California and wanted a West Coast vibe.

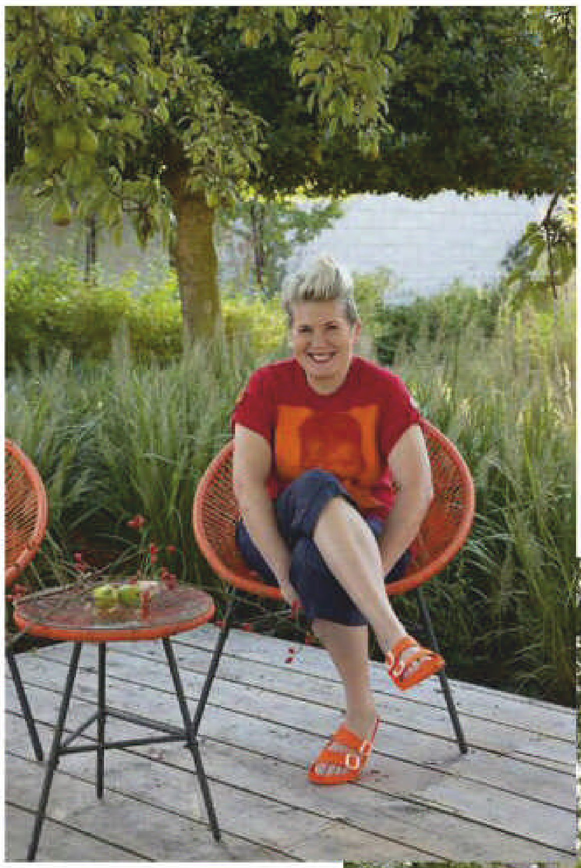
The task of marshalling these demands into a cohesive whole fell to designer Barbara Samitier, who had been recommended to owners Lizzie O'Grady and John Cunningham. "A couple of years after we'd bought the house I set about trying to knock the garden into shape," says Lizzie. "I realised I needed professional help. I'd been doing superficial planting but nothing like the statement we felt the house deserved. We needed someone who could have an overview of the space, and help us with that vision."

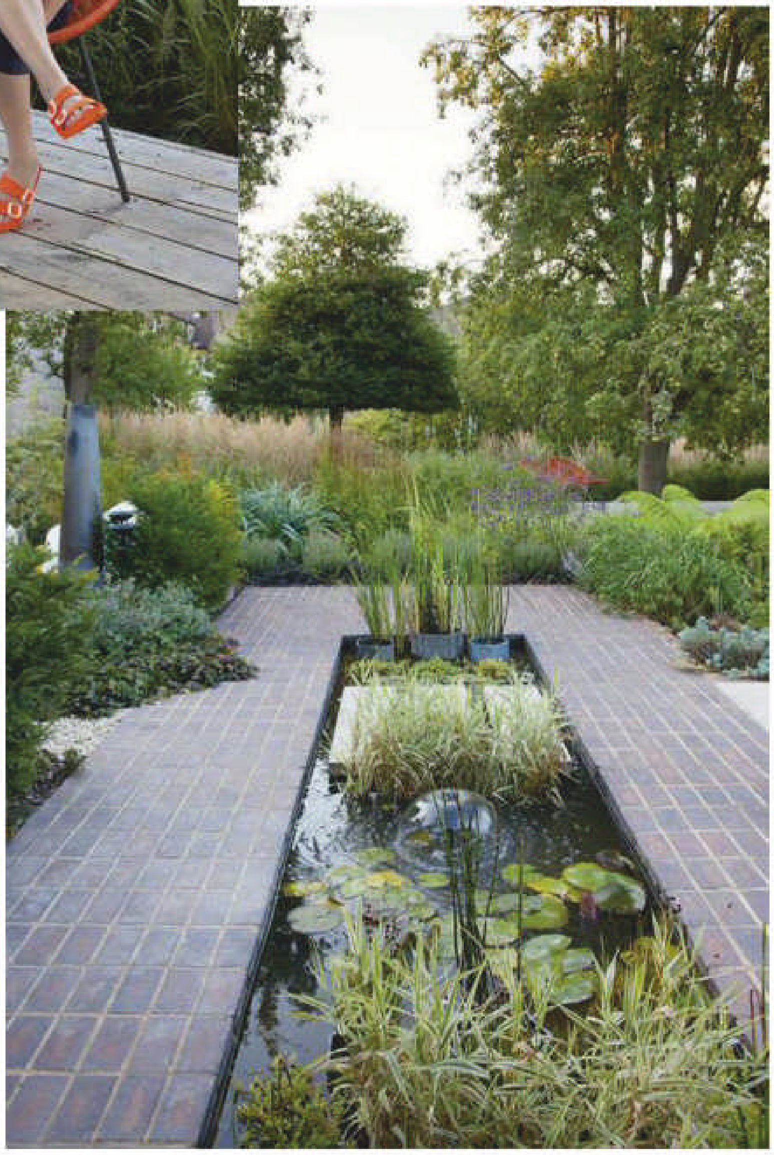
Having conducted a thorough site analysis, noting the position of the trees, where and when the light hit, and which areas might benefit from screening, for example, Barbara drew up a plan. Her response was to allow the materials and proportions of the house to dictate the feel of the areas closest to it, with a gradual loosening of control further away.

Clay pavers – the same as those used on the floors inside – form the terrace immediately outside the sliding doors, as well as the pond terrace, which runs at a right angle to it. To one side is a small hidden garden, surrounded by yew and totally invisible from neighbouring houses, while to the other is a slick seating area of board-formed concrete around a firepit. Concrete steps, lit with LED lights, lead up past a floating timber deck into the wilder area beyond, where a Breedon gravel path prescribes a circular route around the gently undulating site. The planting too relaxes as you go deeper into the garden. Around the house, borders burst with irises, geraniums, nepetas and amsonias ▷

To continue turn to page 85

The materials and proportions of the house dictate the feel of the areas closest to it, with a gradual loosening of control further away

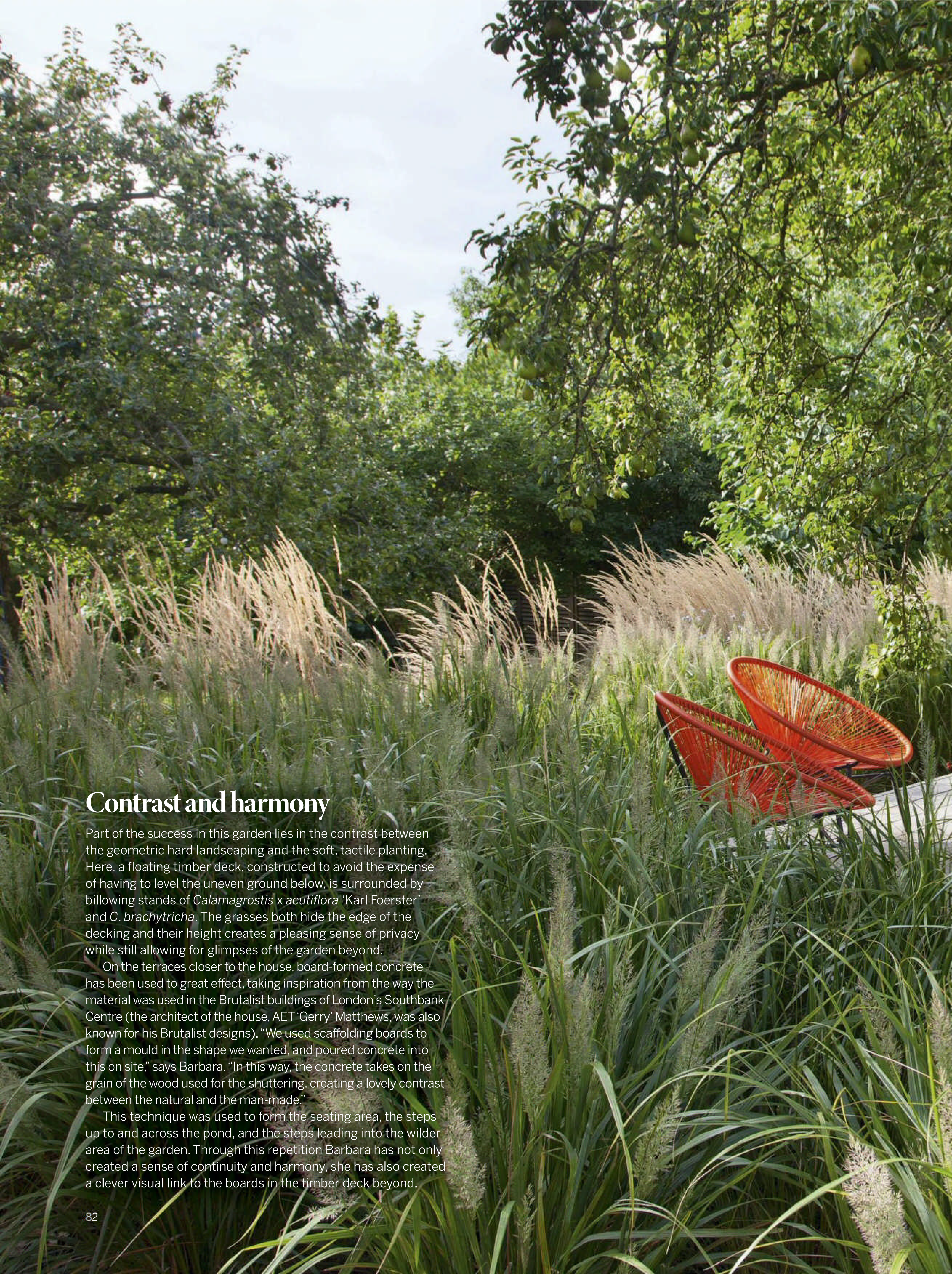




Facing page The red stems and succulent-like *Euphorbia amygdaloides* 'Purpurea'. Evergreen and with acid-yellow flowers in spring, it is a good foil to the concrete wall behind. Tall-growing *Salvia* 'Amistad' adds interest in late summer and autumn, while clever lighting (under the seating area and below feature trees as well as under the steps) encourages use of the garden in the evenings too.

Above Owner Lizzie O'Grady on the wooden deck. Behind her is one of several apple trees, along with a fine *Pyrus calleryana*, that were in the garden when the couple bought it. Barbara has added several other trees and shrubs including *Prunus serrula*, which has attractive peeling bark, and massed *Cornus sanguinea* 'Midwinter Fire' for winter interest.

Right The pond is planted with pygmy water lilies and *Equisetum hyemale*, and surrounded by the same clay pavers that are used inside the house. Beyond it is a large existing holly, which Barbara shaped, lifting the canopy to make it less of a thicket. It is underplanted with a circle of lime-green *Hakonechloa macra* of the same circumference as the canopy.



Contrast and harmony

Part of the success in this garden lies in the contrast between the geometric hard landscaping and the soft, tactile planting. Here, a floating timber deck, constructed to avoid the expense of having to level the uneven ground below, is surrounded by billowing stands of *Calamagrostis* x *acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster' and *C. brachytricha*. The grasses both hide the edge of the decking and their height creates a pleasing sense of privacy while still allowing for glimpses of the garden beyond.

On the terraces closer to the house, board-formed concrete has been used to great effect, taking inspiration from the way the material was used in the Brutalist buildings of London's Southbank Centre (the architect of the house, AET 'Gerry' Matthews, was also known for his Brutalist designs). "We used scaffolding boards to form a mould in the shape we wanted, and poured concrete into this on site," says Barbara. "In this way, the concrete takes on the grain of the wood used for the shuttering, creating a lovely contrast between the natural and the man-made."

This technique was used to form the seating area, the steps up to and across the pond, and the steps leading into the wilder area of the garden. Through this repetition Barbara has not only created a sense of continuity and harmony, she has also created a clever visual link to the boards in the timber deck beyond.

Great swathes of grasses have been used to striking effect, creating a sense of softness against the concrete and screening parts of the garden from view

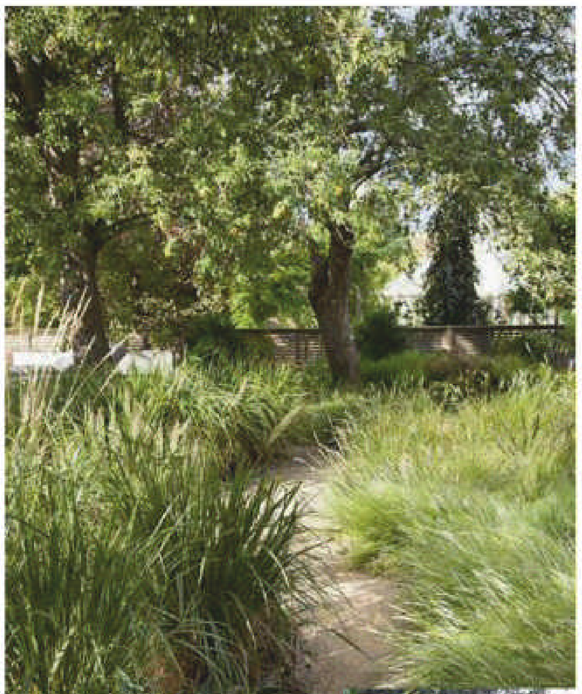
▷ in spring, giving way to sedums, lavenders and salvias as the year progresses. This is also where the design makes a nod to California – or at least to warmer climes and their plants – with lush, architectural tree ferns (*Dicksonia antarctica*), various species of euphorbia and even a palm tree (*Trachycarpus fortunei*) in a particularly sheltered spot outside the bedroom window. Beyond the steps, great swathes of grasses (*Sesleria autumnalis*, *Calamagrostis* x *acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster' and *Calamagrostis brachytricha*) have been used to striking effect, creating a sense of softness against the concrete and screening parts of the garden from view, meaning every twist in the path brings with it a new discovery. "When my mum first visited she was standing under the trees at the back and she said 'whose house is that over there?'" says Lizzie. "It was ours."

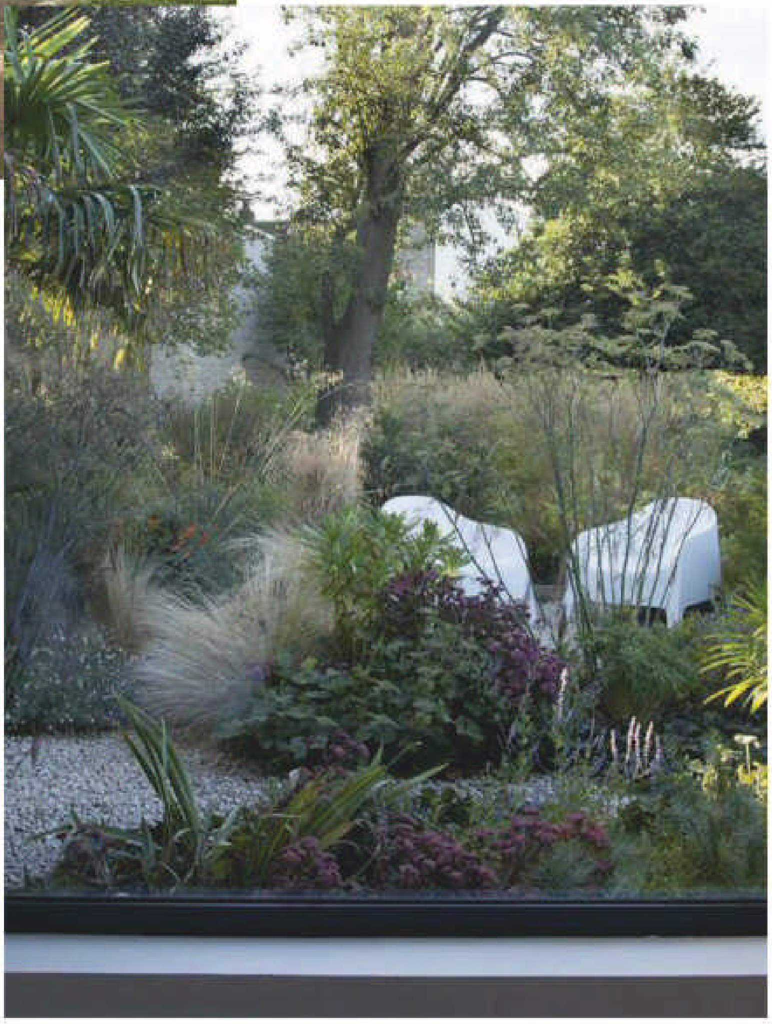
Such seclusion also brings benefits in terms of longed-for wildlife. It's not unknown for a family of five foxes to laze at one end while Lizzie potters at the other, and the garden is alive with bees, butterflies, birds, field mice and rare stag beetles, much to her delight. The real game-changer, though, has been the pond – which Barbara fought hard for, despite Lizzie's concerns about its upkeep.

"It makes the house," says Lizzie. "Visitors always say 'wow' and the creatures love it too. Newts arrived after just two weeks; we've seen dragonflies hatching, we have toads… It's been a real eye opener." Her goldfish have also attracted slightly less welcome visitors in the form of herons. "I can't resent them totally even though I'm a bit peeved they've taken my fish," she laughs. "They're like dinosaurs – you feel honoured when they come into your garden. The way Barbara has created the different zones we feel like we have four gardens for the price of one. It's been wonderful – I wouldn't change a thing." □

The pond makes the house. Visitors always say 'wow' and creatures love it too. Newts arrived after two weeks; we've seen dragonflies hatching…

USEFUL INFORMATION
Find out more about Barbara's work at
barbarasamitiergardens.co.uk





Facing page The area that leads to the 'hidden garden' has a Mediterranean feel with plants that work well on clay including *Hylotelephium telephium* 'Karfunkelstein', *Ajuga reptans*, *Nepeta* x *faassenii*, *Salvia yangii* 'Blue Spire' and *Euphorbia mellifera*. Across the pond, the seating area is backed with pleached Portuguese laurels (*Prunus lusitanica*) for privacy.

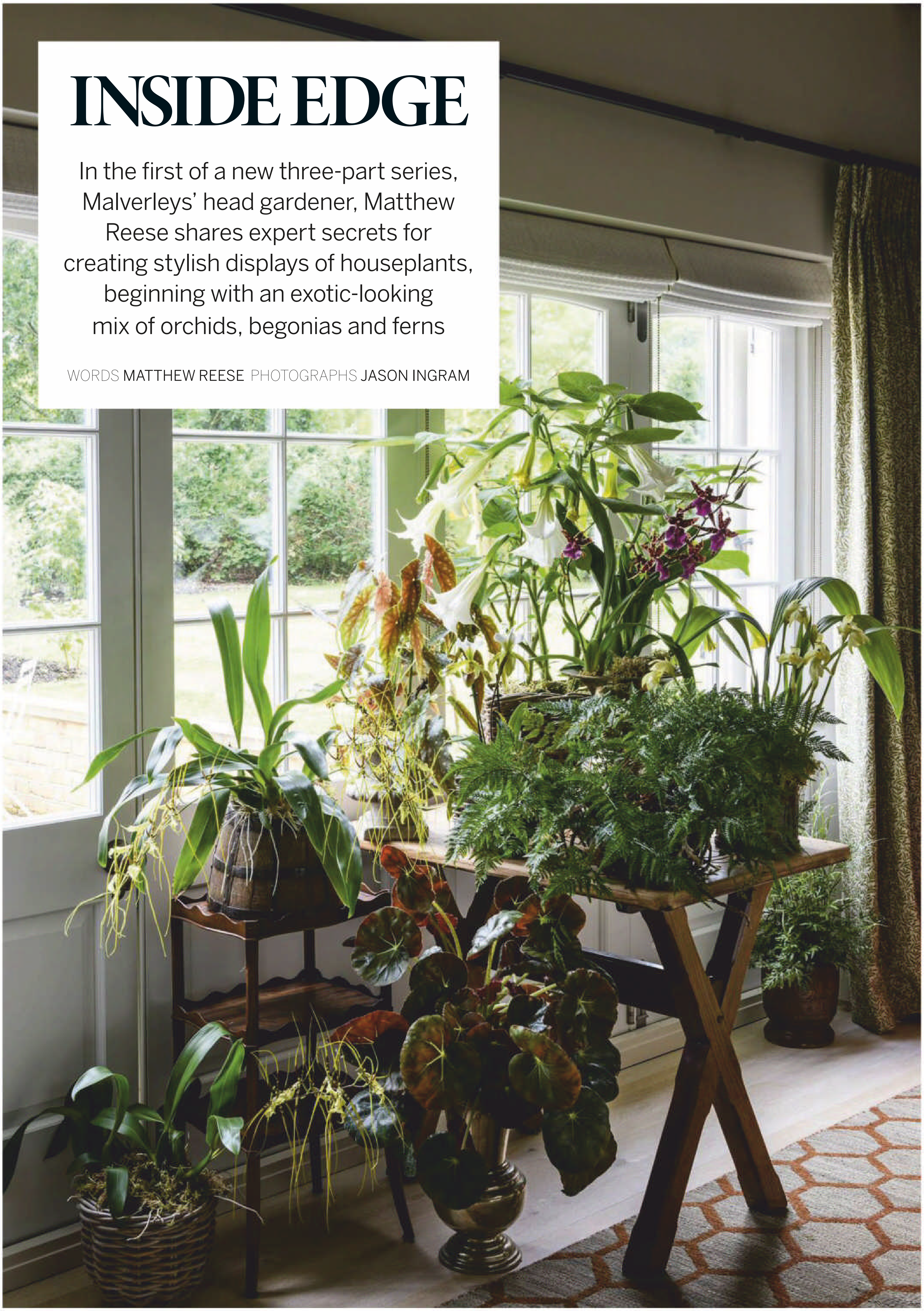
Above A pathway of Breedon gravel leads through the wilder area of the garden, where many grasses have been used to keep maintenance to a minimum. Along the path are smaller, more delicate plants, such as *Tiarella* 'Spring Symphony', hellebores and sweet woodruff (*Galium odoratum*), to catch interest and slow pace.

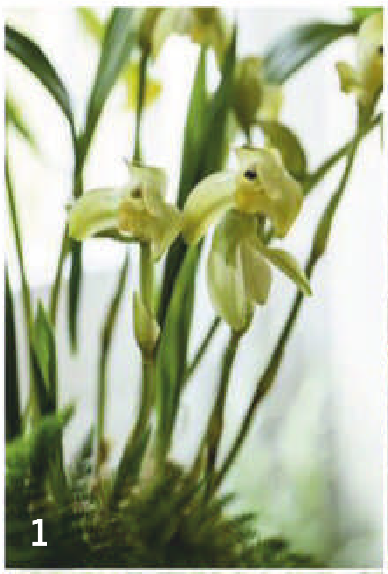
Right The master bedroom looks out on to the hidden garden, which will become even more secluded over time as the yew hedges grow. A palm tree – a nod to California – can just be seen on the left, while grasses including *Stipa tenuissima* and fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*) create a soft, hazy effect.

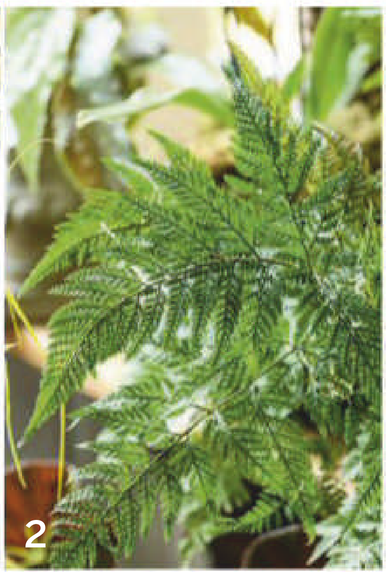
INSIDE EDGE

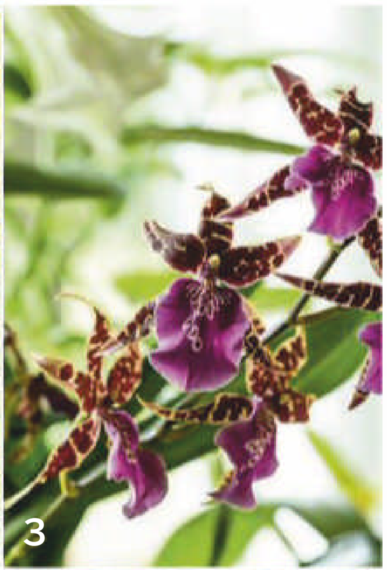
In the first of a new three-part series, Malverleys' head gardener, Matthew Reese shares expert secrets for creating stylish displays of houseplants, beginning with an exotic-looking mix of orchids, begonias and ferns

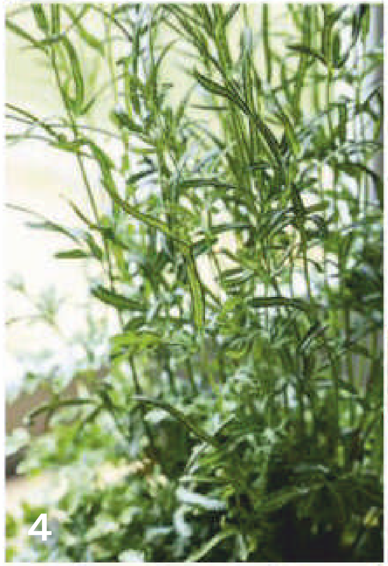
WORDS **MATTHEW REESE** PHOTOGRAPHS **JASON INGRAM**

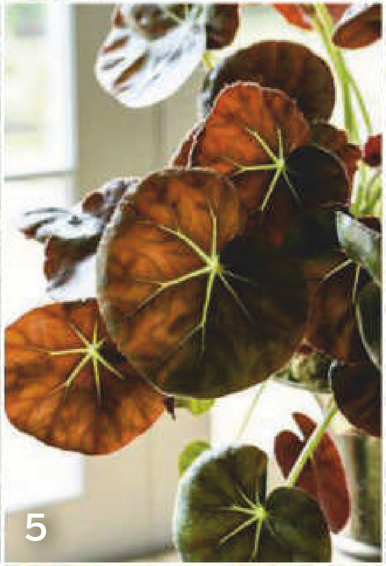


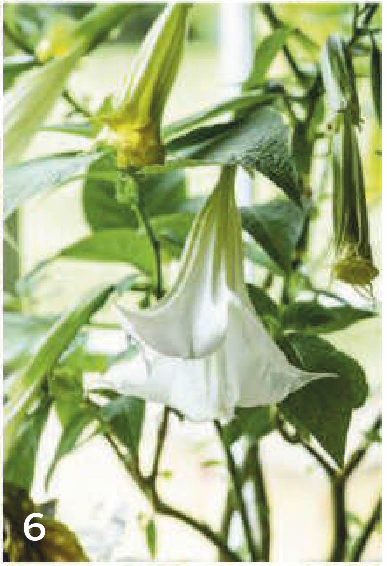

1

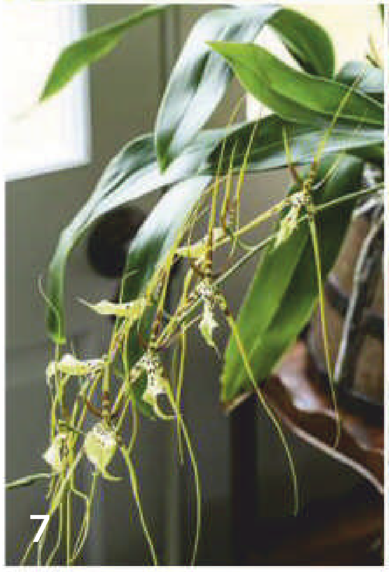

2

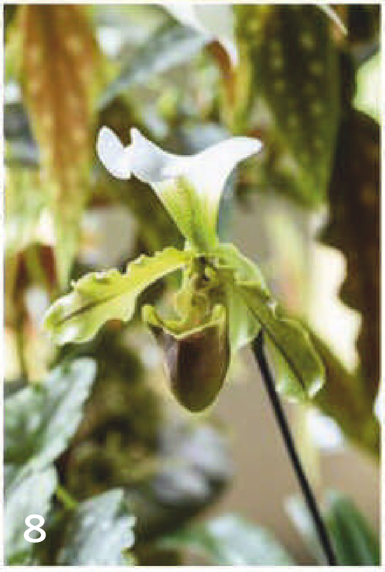

3

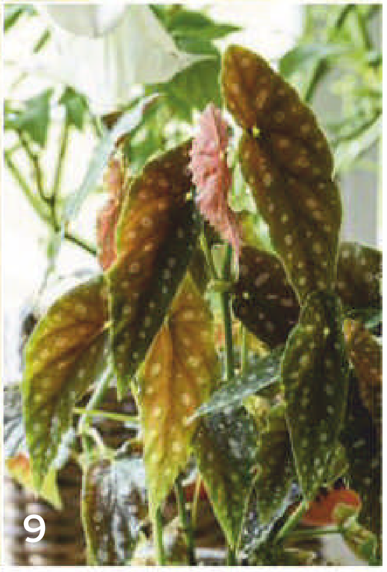

4


5


6


7


8


9

When planning houseplant arrangements, keep plants with similar light requirements together. These exotics, which we cultivate in the conservatory and bring into the house when they reach their prime, have been positioned to take advantage of the intermediate morning light next to a sitting room window. This position avoids the intense midday sunshine that may scorch the foliage. It's a temporary display, and when the plants begin to look jaded they are returned to the conservatory and replacements found. The orchids take this upheaval in their stride, as do the ferns, and require little more than a light daily misting. The begonias and angel's trumpet don't travel as well and will need to be watered more frequently. It is vital to avoid crowding them too closely together, otherwise, the display can look congested. Position the larger plants first, work from the back to the front, and try to consider the appearance of both flowers and foliage. The composition looks much better when the plant pots are hidden in smart containers. Here the oak pot marries the display with some of the furniture, while the silver is quite neutral and makes everything feel comfortable.

In this arrangement, the angel's trumpet with large, scented, pendent, white flowers forms the backdrop. Below, the orchids add dashes of colour with their exotic blooms. Next to the window, the foliage of the begonia catches the light. On the corner of the table, a fern makes a nest of fine foliage that contrasts well with the shiny begonia foliage below. Having plants scattered around the table makes the display look more relaxed. *Brassia* Edvah Loo gx 'Vera Cruz' casts long wands of spidery flowers with intricate, detailed petals that are best appreciated when placed against a darker backdrop. □

Plants

1 *Sudamerlycaste* 'Archirondel'
A hybrid orchid that is a cross between *Sudamerlycaste costata* and *Sudamerlycaste ariasii* and has waxy, hooded, white flowers and long, plicate, arching leaves. Needs heat, shade and humidity. 50cm.

2 *Davallia solida* var. *fejeensis*
Known as the rabbit's foot fern for the soft, scale-covered rhizomes from which finely divided fronds are produced. It forms a much larger plant in tropical countries. 1m. RHS H1C, USDA 10a-12†.

3 *Brassia* hybrid
Brassias originally hail from the tropical Americas, and are epiphytic. This punchy, purple-flowered hybrid is an easy-to-cultivate orchid for a bathroom or kitchen windowsill. 50cm.

4 *Pteris parkeri*
An easy and attractive little fern that has busy, variegated attractive foliage. It is a half-hardy perennial and the small pinnate fronds are evergreen.30cm. AGM*. RHS H1C.

5 *Begonia* 'Erythrophylla'
A very smart tender perennial that makes large, round, lustrous, copper-green foliage. The leaves are loosely arranged and held on long, slender, light-green petioles. 40cm. AGM. RHS H1B, USDA 9b-11.

6 *Brugmansia suaveolens*
The snowy angel's trumpet is a fast-growing tender shrub that produces large leaves and masses of trumpet-shaped, pendent, white flowers. The blooms are night-scented. 4m. AGM. RHS H1C, USDA 8a-10b.

7 *Brassia* Edvah Loo gx 'Vera Cruz'
This wonderful primary hybrid orchid has very showy spidery blooms in yellow and chartreuse with dark maroon spots on long, arching stems. 50cm.

8 *Paphiopedilum* Leeanum gx
An easy-to-cultivate, hybrid lady slipper orchid that has large flowers. Its slipper, or labellum, is dark burgundy and contrasts beautifully with the overhanging white hood. 30cm. AGM.

9 *Begonia* x *albopicta*
Known as the guinea-wing begonia, this cane type begonia grows into an upright plant that is decked with wonderful spotted, shield-shaped leaves. It forms trusses of small, white flowers. 60cm.

Where to buy

Burnham Orchids
Forches Cross, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 6PZ.
Tel 01626 352233, orchids.uk.com
Orchid specialist that offers mail order and is open Monday to Friday, 10am-3pm.

Cross Common Nursery
The Lizard, Helston, Cornwall TR12 7PD.
Tel 01326 290722, crosscommonnursery.co.uk
Offers wide range of exotic plants. Mostly mail order, but visitors are welcome if they telephone first.

Dibleys Nurseries
Llanelidan, Ruthin, Denbighshire LL15 2LG.
Tel 01978 790677, dibleys.com
Specialist in indoor plants, with a good range of exotics. Mail order only.

Wisley Plant Centre
RHS Garden Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB.
Tel 01483 224234, rhs.org.uk/gardens/wisley
Offers good range of indoor plants. Open Monday-Saturday, 9.30am-5.30pm; Sunday, 11am-5pm.

---

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. †Hardiness ratings given where available.

Flowering tradition

James Rowe is continuing the family tradition of growing cut flowers in land nestled around a medieval priory

WORDS **CAROLINE BECK** PHOTOGRAPHS **ANNAÏCK GUITTENY**

IN BRIEF

What A flower farm in the grounds of a medieval priory.
Where North Yorkshire.
Size Approximately two acres.
Soil Excellent loam which has been well-worked over decades.
Climate Can be affected by a cold sea-fret as only five miles from the North Sea.
Hardiness zone USDA 8.

As the sun rises over the flower fields at Priory Gardens, the ruined medieval priory provides an atmospheric backdrop to a colourful mix of *Scabiosa atropurpurea* 'Beaujolais Bonnets', *Salvia viridis* var. *comata* and cornflowers. Third generation grower James Rowe, who now heads up the business, and his father Eddy sow the seeds directly into the ground in mid-April in long rows for ease of picking.

The flower farm in the middle of the medieval Yorkshire town of Guisborough is a well-known landmark, and as you walk round the town, especially in autumn, you can see the tall heads of yellow sunflowers peering tantalisingly over the high brick walls. It was originally a market garden, established by George and Dora Rowe in 1962 with just £10 in their pocket. George also worked the night shift at the chemical factory ICI in nearby Teesside and had seven children to support, but he still managed to show dahlias in the local flower show. The dahlia connection has remained, with rows of more than 60 different cultivars being the high point of the flowering year. George Rowe rented around two acres of the 12th-century Priory Gardens from Lord Gisborough, and the Gothic outline of the ruined Augustinian priory still forms the backdrop to the atmospheric garden.

George's son Eddy helped him from the age of five, and his son James, who now heads the family business, can't remember a time when the family didn't work with flowers. "Our heyday was in the 1970s and 1980s when Grandad and Dad used to cut 50 buckets of chrysanthemums and dahlias three times a week and take them to the local wholesale market." The family were well known in the town, and on Christmas Eve there would be a queue all the way down the street of customers waiting to buy bunches of hothouse chrysanthemums. "We hardly saw Dad on Christmas Day, because he'd be cutting another 200 buckets to sell on Boxing Day." Eddy still has the trowel he's had all his life, worn down to a third of its original size after decades of continuous use. Things changed, however, drastically during the mid-1990s when globalisation of the multi-million pound UK flower industry almost ruined the business. They couldn't compete with the price of imported flowers, and a sudden hike in the cost of oil meant they couldn't afford to heat the large greenhouses any more.

"It cost us over £2,000 a week just in oil, and then the price for our flowers crashed," says James. In the past five years with the resurgence in interest in British grown flowers, the business has bounced back. From late spring onwards, long rows of flowers, such as tulips, cornflowers, scabious, larkspurs, salvias and rudbeckias and, of course, dahlias are a visual treat.

> We hardly saw Dad on Christmas Day, because he'd be cutting 200 buckets of hothouse chrysanthemums to sell on Boxing Day

There have been times, and this year has been one of them, when it looked like the family business might fail. But the Rowes are made of tough stuff. One year in the mid-1960s, George Rowe turned the whole place over to potatoes, which saved the business, and when the imports threatened to wipe out trade, they did bedding plants and holly wreaths. This March, when the coronavirus lockdown meant weddings, wholesale, workshops and retail stopped overnight, James turned to contract gardening to keep it all going. The family's connection with dahlias is more than a commercial decision. They grow dahlias like most people grow lettuce – effortlessly. The technique for growing these sometimes tricky divas has remained almost the same for nearly 60 years. They wait for the first frosts to blacken the stems, then lift the tubers and store them in large plastic feed sacks in the greenhouse, with holes punched into the plastic to stop the tubers rotting.

In January they start rooting the new cuttings, and in mid-May they're planted out with the first flowers arriving in late July. "We destroy the older tubers, as the newly rooted ones flower much more reliably," says James. Other tricks, such as disbudding newly emerging flowers as soon as they appear until mid-July and feeding regularly with a high potash feed, help keep good stem length and a continuity of flowers all the way through to the first hard frosts of late October. Planning for better times. Six decades of Yorkshire flower growing isn't so easily thrown away. □

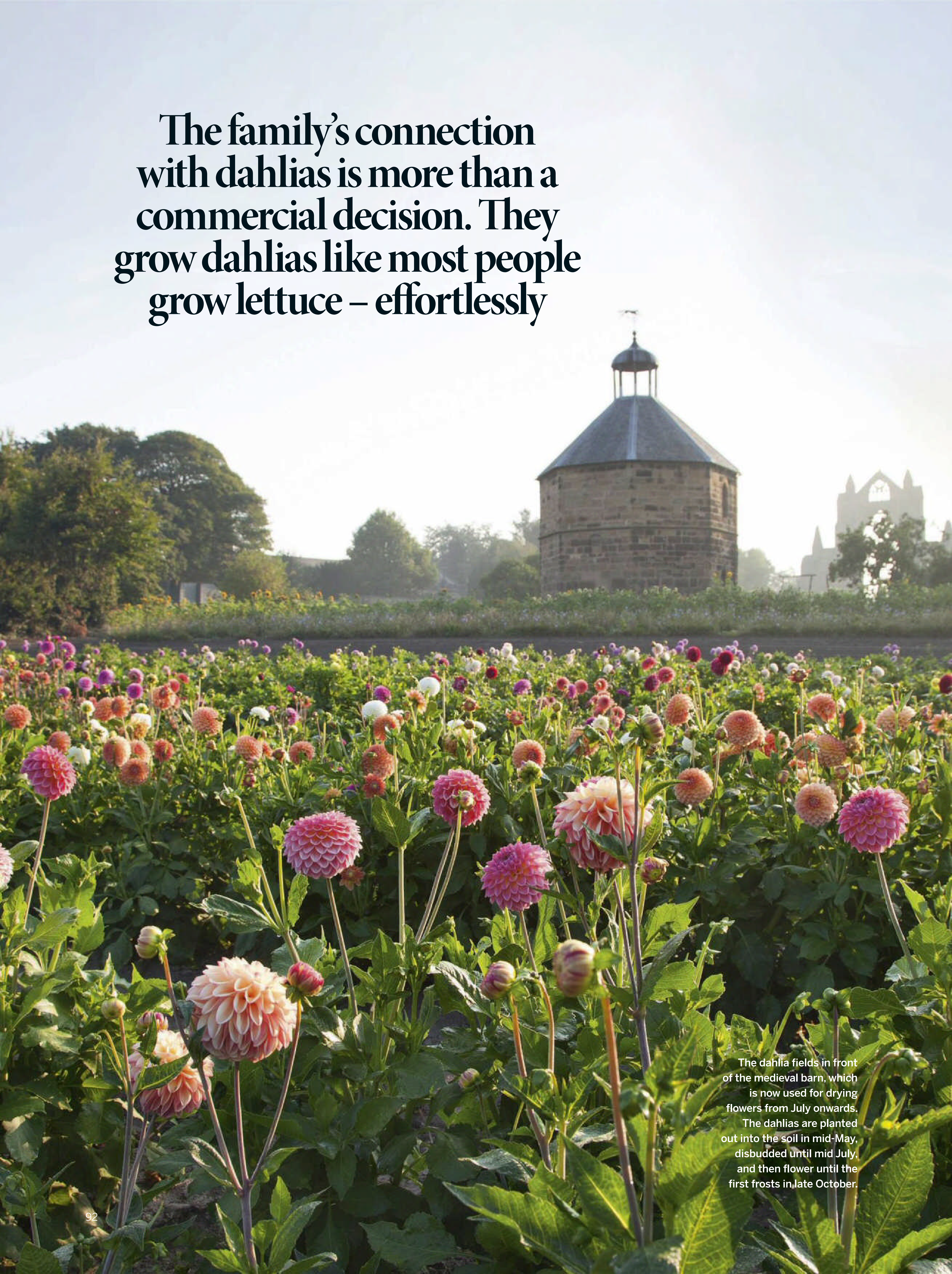
USEFUL INFORMATION

Address Priory Gardens, Bow Street, Guisborough, North Yorkshire TS14 6PR. **Tel** 01287 771496.
Website rowesatpriorygardens.co.uk **Open** The gardens host a series of flower-arranging workshops and pick your own events throughout the year. See website for details.

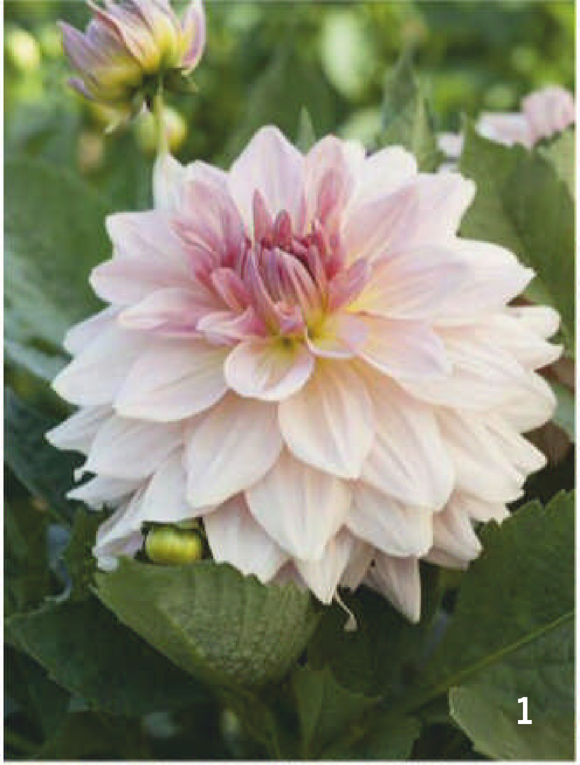
Turn the page for 12 key cut flowers

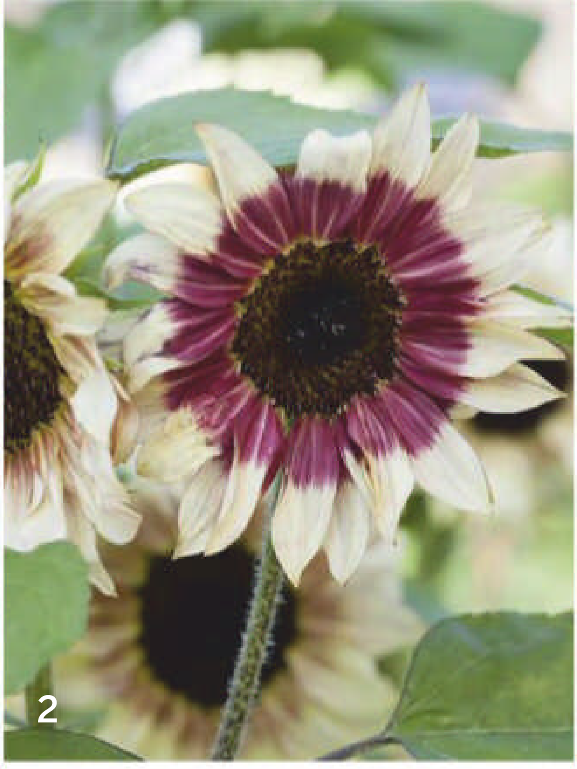
Early autumn in the picking garden with *Zinnia* 'Benary's Giant Mixed', *Scabiosa atropurpurea* 'Salmon Queen' and foxtail millet (*Setaria italica* 'Red Jewel'). All of these are annual flowers and need to be sown in March and they begin to flower in late summer all the way through to October.

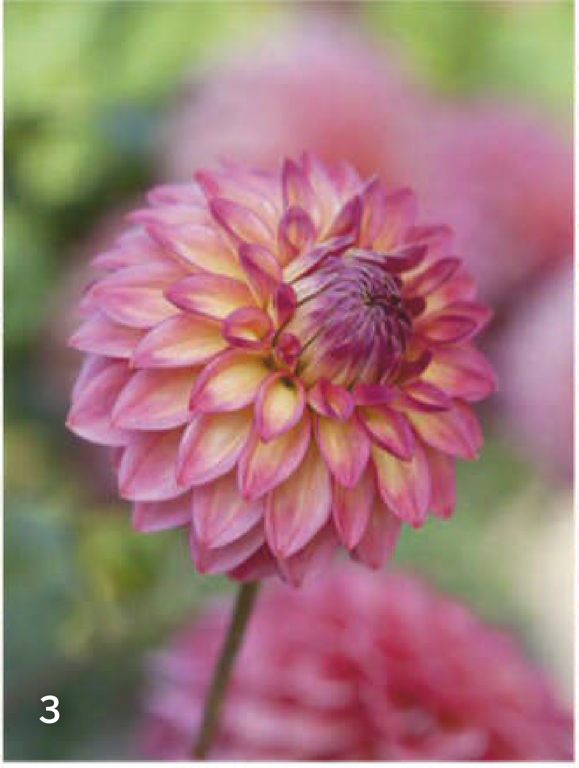
The family's connection with dahlias is more than a commercial decision. They grow dahlias like most people grow lettuce – effortlessly

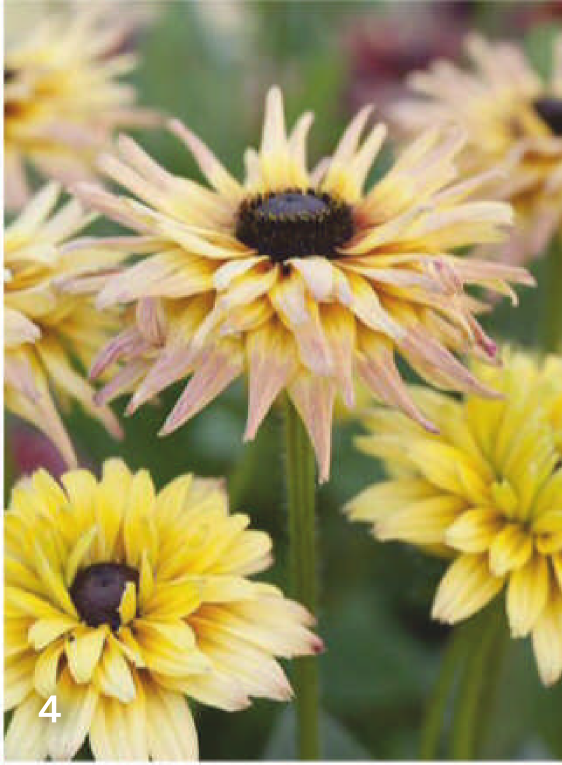


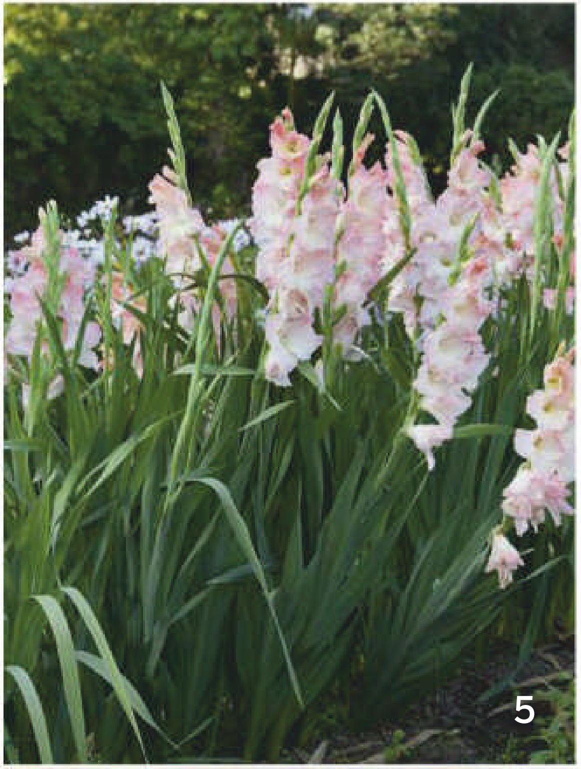
The dahlia fields in front of the medieval barn, which is now used for drying flowers from July onwards. The dahlias are planted out into the soil in mid-May, disbudded until mid July, and then flower until the first frosts in late October.


1


2


3


4


5

12 KEY CUT FLOWERS

1 *Dahlia* 'Porcelain' A waterlily-type dahlia with ivory petals that show a tinge of violet as they develop, and which grows to more than a metre in height. Lift and store tubers over winter. 1.2m. RHS H3, USDA 7a-10b[†].

***2 Helianthus* 'Ruby Eclipse'** With bi-coloured flowers in shades of cream, dusty-rose and ruby-red, this is an exceptionally easy sunflower to grow. When the central flower starts to form, cut it out and then many side shoots form with smaller flowers. Cut when first petals appear and strip off lower leaves. 1.8m. USDA 2a-11.

3 *Dahlia* 'Hillcrest Kismet' Offers large salmon-bronze flowers on strong stems that grow to over a metre in height. Pinch out early flower buds, which then produce flowers on longer stems. 1.25m. USDA 7a-10b.

4 *Rudbeckia hirta* 'Sahara' A half-hardy annual that is best started off with gentle heat in April, and will then bloom from late July onwards. Deadhead regularly to encourage flowering. 30cm. USDA 3a-7b.

5 *Gladiolus* 'Priscilla' Tri-coloured gladioli with white and rose pink petals with a creamy throat. Needs fertile, well-drained soil in full sun but lift and store the corms overwinter as they dislike winter wet. 1m. USDA 7a-10b.

6 *Scabiosa atropurpurea* 'Beaujolais Bonnets' A reliable, hardy perennial scabious, grown easily from seed and flowering in its first year. Known as a pincushion flower, it has ruffles of dark-pink petals laced with cream. Likes well-drained soil. 60cm.

7 *Rudbeckia hirta* 'Cherry Brandy' A deep, velvety red, glamorous flower with long stalks and a vase life of around ten days. Get your order for seeds in early, as they sell out very quickly. 60cm. RHS H3, USDA 3a-7b.

8 *Panicum virgatum* 'Fontaine' An annual grass that is excellent as a bouquet filler. Beware though, as mice love this grass as much as you, so protect the seeds when you sow them in mid-March. 60-80cm.

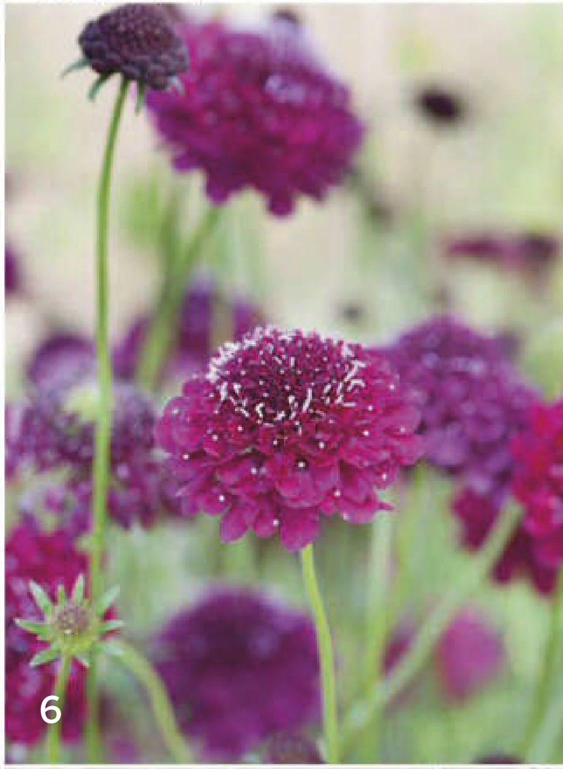
9 *Scabiosa atropurpurea* 'Black Knight' A half-hardy annual, but will overwinter in milder parts of the country. Very dramatic long-lasting flowers in deep blackcurrant with contrasting white stigmas. 90cm. USDA 9a-11.

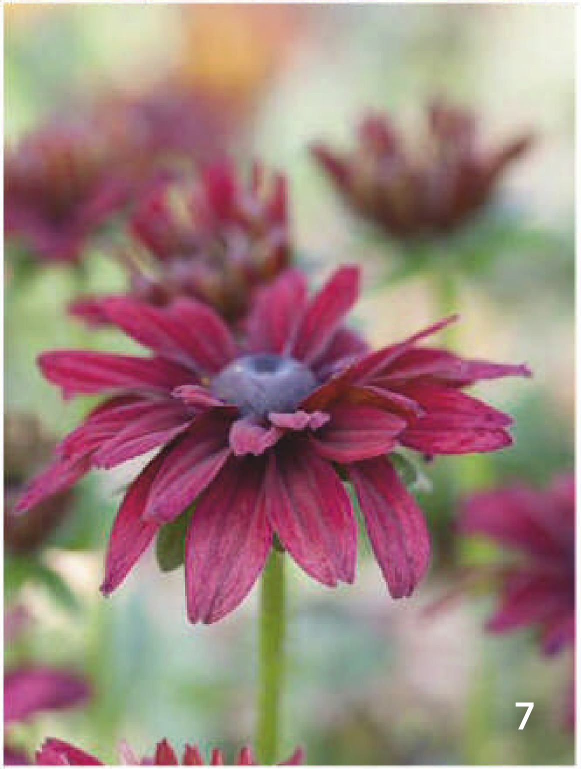
10 *Scabiosa stellata* 'Ping Pong' A hardy annual grown mainly for its dramatic, papery and long-lasting seedheads. Can be set from seed in either September or early March. Quick to germinate. 60cm.

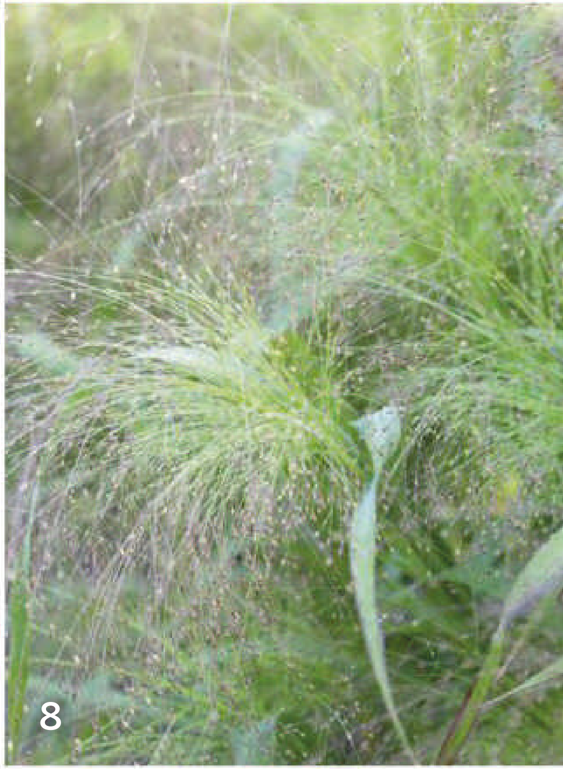
11 *Dahlia* 'Labyrinth' A real show-stopping flower looking like a hat designed by Gertrude Shilling. A vigorous grower that is very easy to take root cuttings from in early February. Store tubers over winter. 1m. USDA 7a-10b.

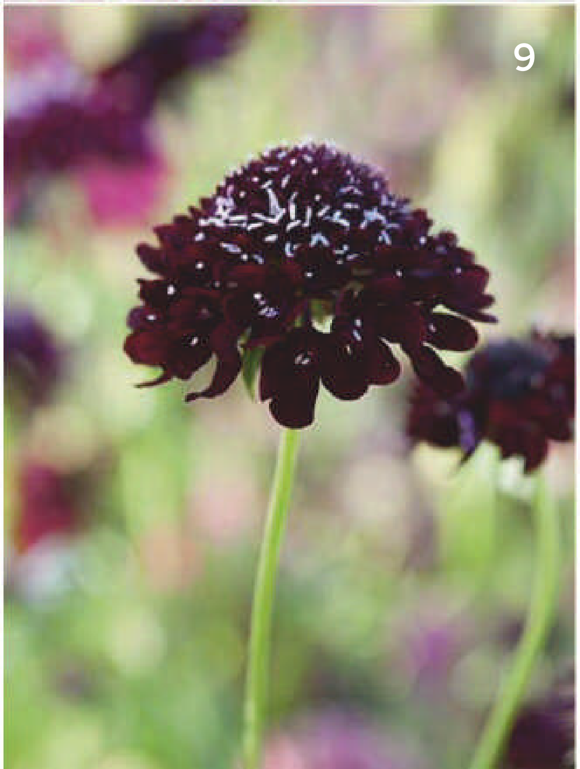
12 *Helianthus annuus* 'Sunrich Lemon' An F1 hybrid, so a little more expensive for the seed, but a very reliable cut flower with a huge sturdy stem and flowers that don't shed pollen. 1.5m.

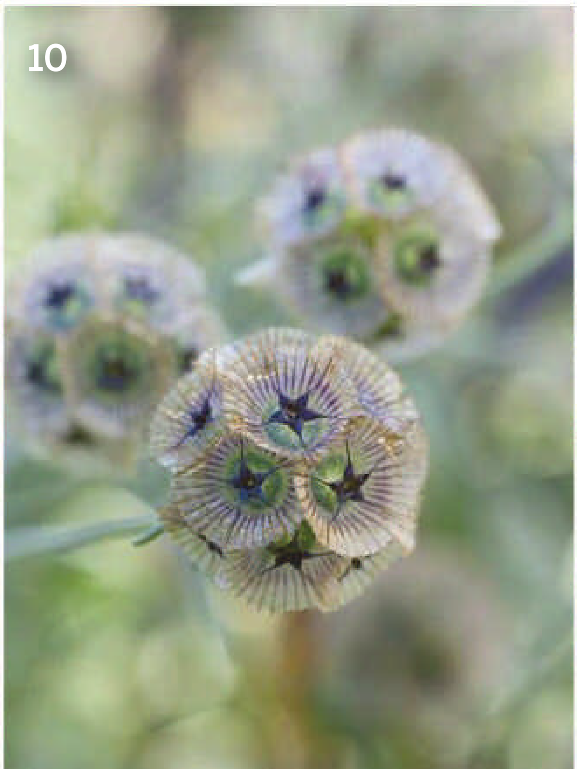
*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. [†]Hardiness ratings given where available.

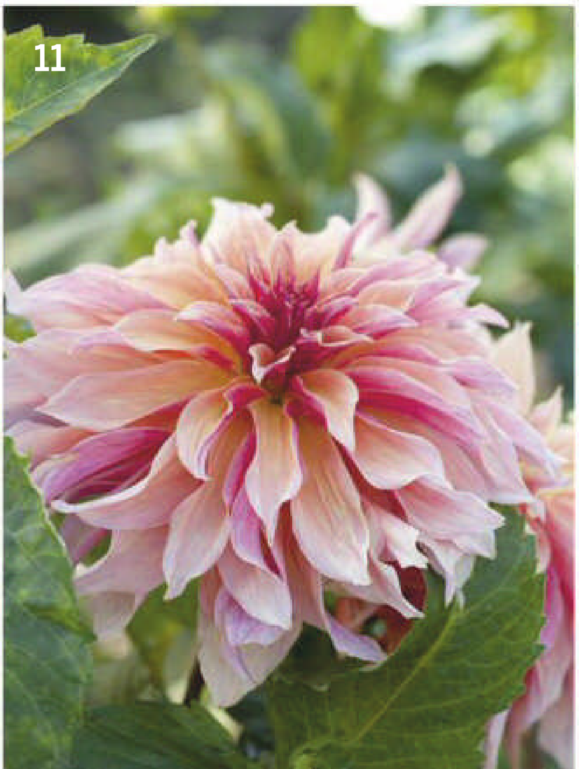

6

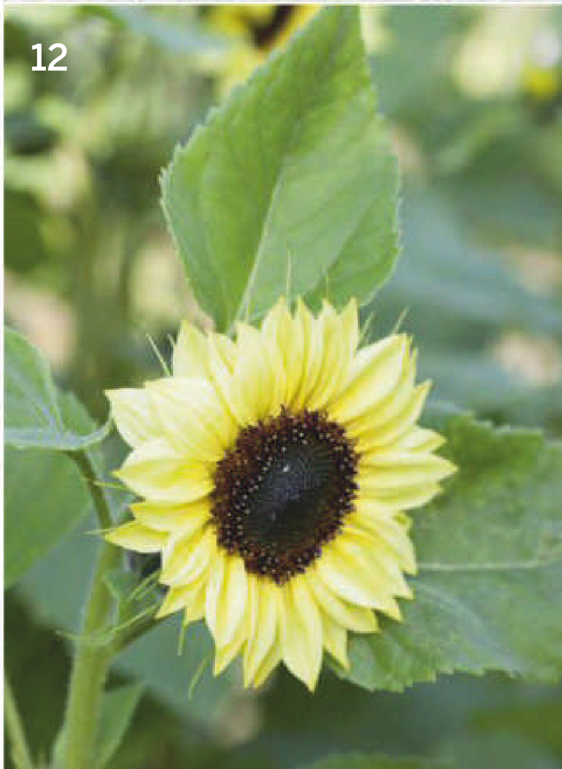

7


8


9


10


11


12

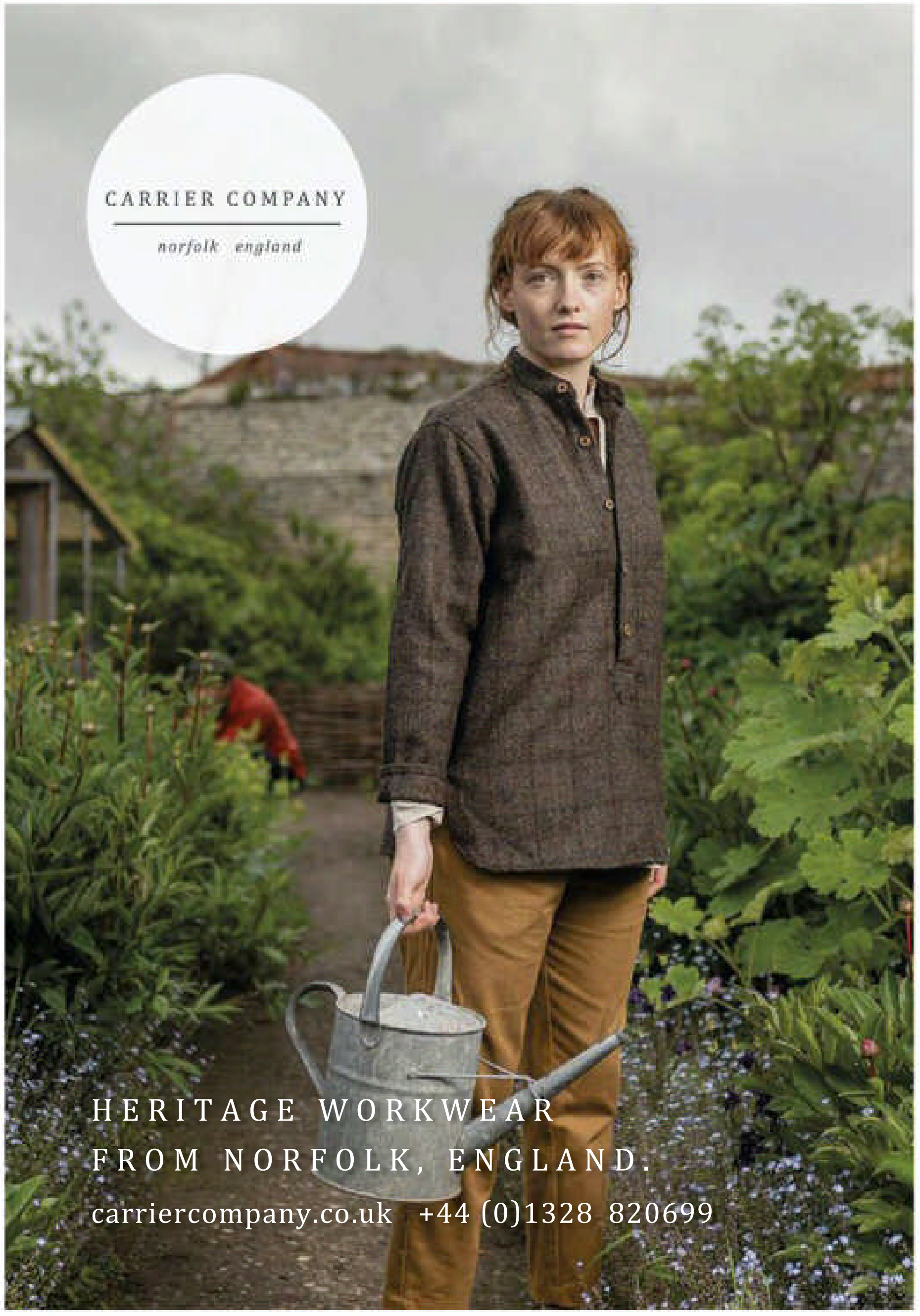
White Cottage Greenhouses

Edwardian ref. 541

Bespoke Traditional Glasshouses
call 01270 753 826
or visit www.whitecottage.co.uk

Leander
Est. 1980

PLANT SUPPORTS
& Garden Artefacts
Made in England
Beautiful designs for perennials, roses, shrubs & climbers
www.leanderplantsupports.co.uk
Tel. 01773 550495

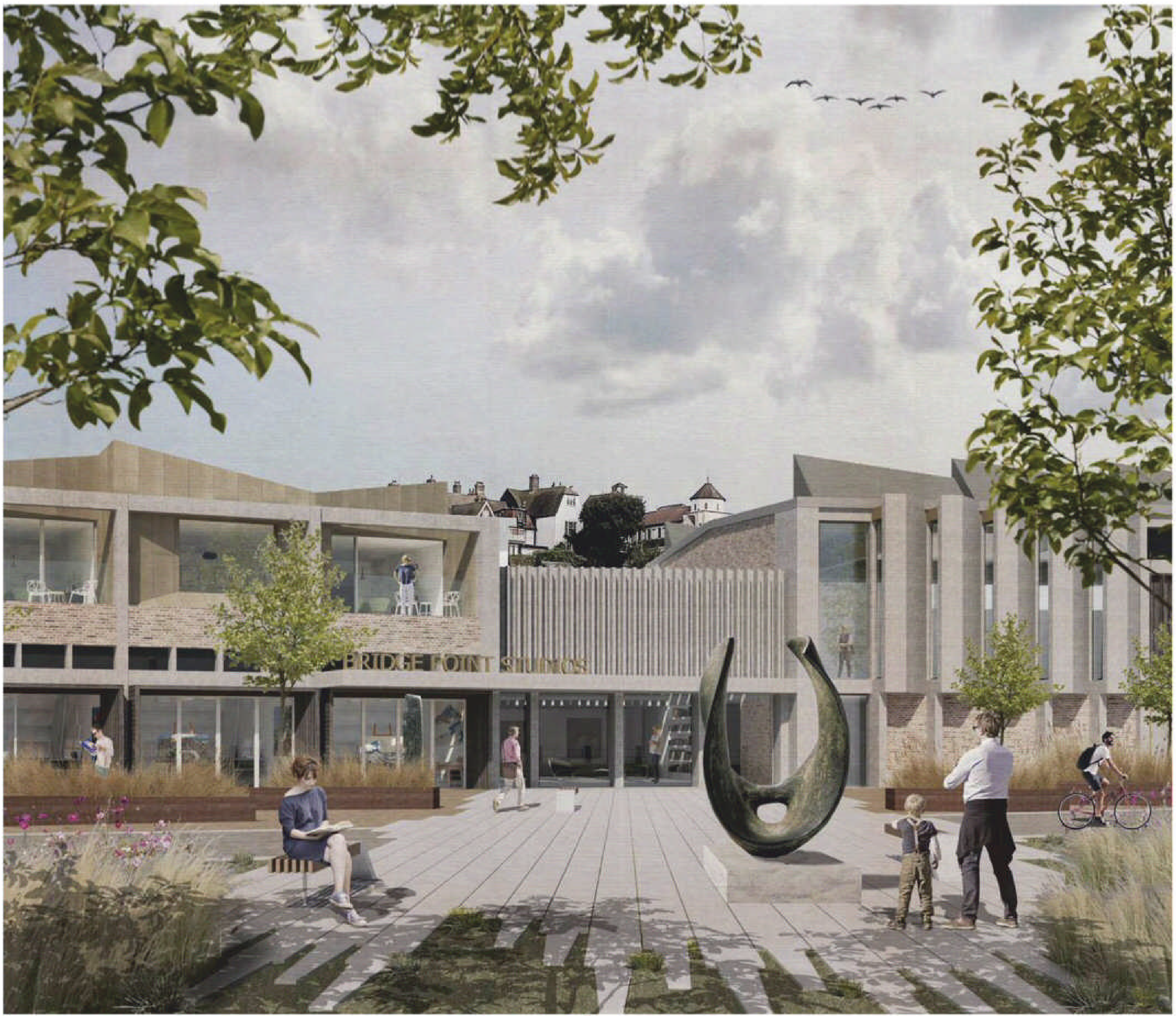


CARRIER COMPANY
norfolk england

HERITAGE WORKWEAR
FROM NORFOLK, ENGLAND.
carriercompany.co.uk +44 (0)1328 820699

Design

News and sourcebook



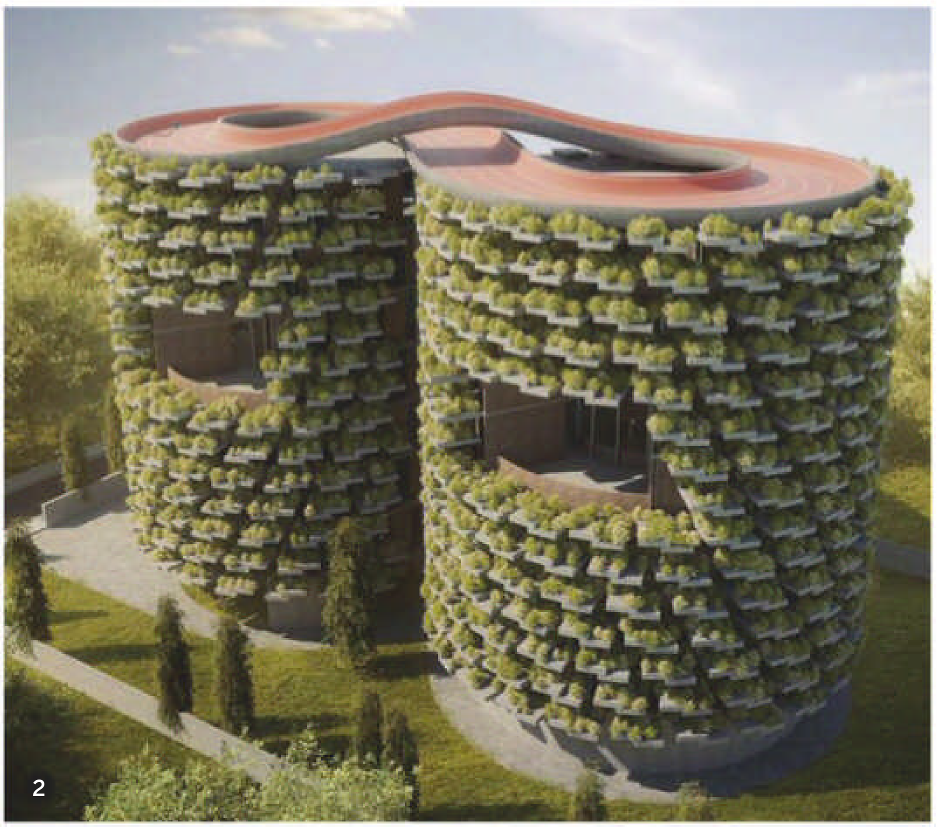
ARTFUL DESIGN

Planning permission has been granted for a scheme in Rye, East Sussex that will regenerate the Rock Channel area of the town with the conversion of a large warehouse into a multi-purpose arts centre. Bridgepoint Rye, designed by Rye-based RX Architects will include gallery spaces, an arts library, offices, shops and indoor and outdoor performance areas. The landscaping by Marian Boswall Landscape Architects will create a riverside walk that improves the relationship between the town and the river and forms an ecological corridor bordered by native plants. The planting, composed of swathes of grasses and predominantly wildflowers, evokes the flat planes of the local marshes.
marianboswall.com; rxarchitects.com

RX ARCHITECTS

News

COMPILED BY ANNIE GATTI



① ORFORD MEWS

Plans have been approved for a zero-waste, carbon-positive mews development of nine timber-clad houses in east London with landscape designed by London Glades. Orford Mews, by Studio Anyo and KLH Sustainability, will have a series of community gardens including an outdoor kitchen with edible green walls where residents will be able to harvest plants grown on food forestry principles. Landscaping will also help sequester carbon through tiered planting, bespoke moss roofs and composting. Brown roofs, using crushed materials from on site, will increase biodiversity. **londonglades.com**

② FOREST SCHOOL

A competition to design a new school in Pune, western India, has been won by Mumbai-based architectural studio Nudes. Its winning design features two six-storey towers, wrapped in plants, with a looping cycle track on each roof that links the two buildings. Stepped balconies will support the plants that will help to remove pollutants from the air – air pollution in Pune has been shown to be four times higher than the safe standard set by the World Health Organisation. The plants will also shade the building so helping to keep it cool during the hottest months. Construction will start in 2021. **nudeoffices.com**

③ BEE GARDEN

The centrepiece of a new Bee Garden at London's Horniman Museum is a sculpture made from NoxTex, a material that can trap pollution particles that would otherwise mask the smell of flowers, making it harder for bees to find nectar and pollen. Rain washes away the absorbed particles, allowing more pollution to be trapped from the air. *Flower Girl* by Jasmine Pradissitto emerges from a selection of annuals and perennials and shrubs, known to provide food for bees, in six hexagonal beds. Bee hotels, made from reclaimed pallets, provide sites for solitary bees in areas of wildflowers around the garden's edges. **horniman.ac.uk**

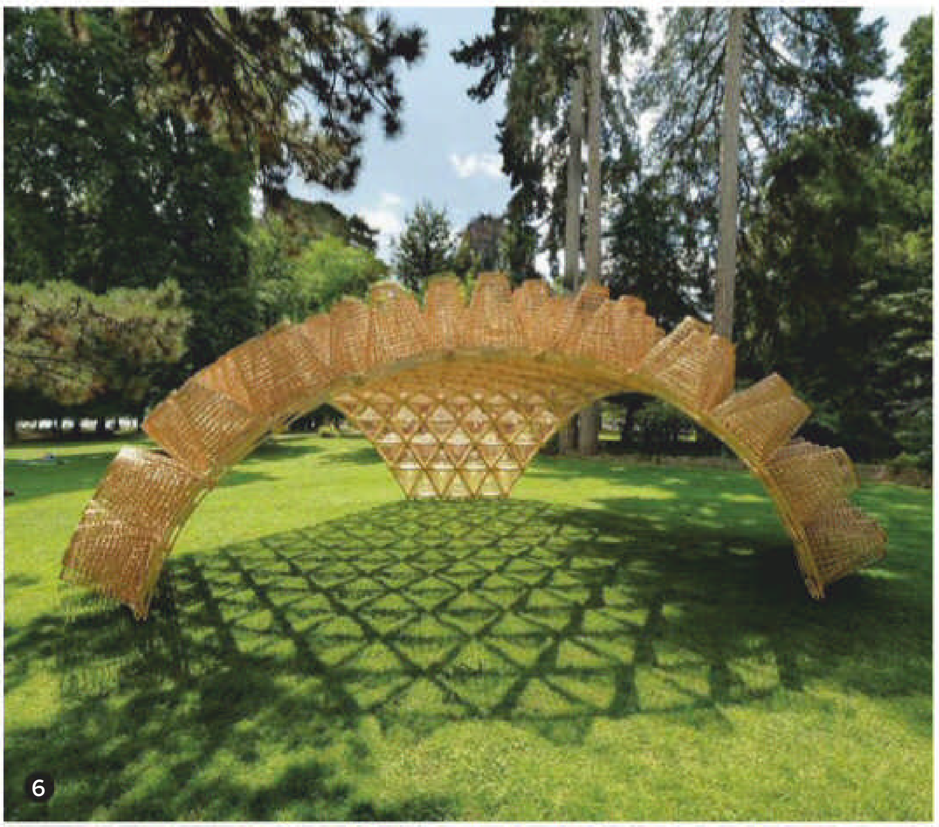
④ EDEN PROJECT

A new garden showcasing the flora of South Africa's Veld has opened at the Eden Project, Cornwall. Covering 800 square metres on a southeast-facing slope outside the Rainforest Biome, it was planted in a naturalistic style by a team led by Florence Mansbridge (above), who travelled to the Veld a year ago on a study visit. Structure is provided by trees, shrubs, succulents, such as architectural *Aloe polyphylla*, and Cape reeds. Autumn colour is provided by *Amaryllis belladonna*, *Hesperantha coccinea* and *Nerine bowdenii*. The garden complements the existing South Africa area in the Mediterranean Biome. **edenproject.com**

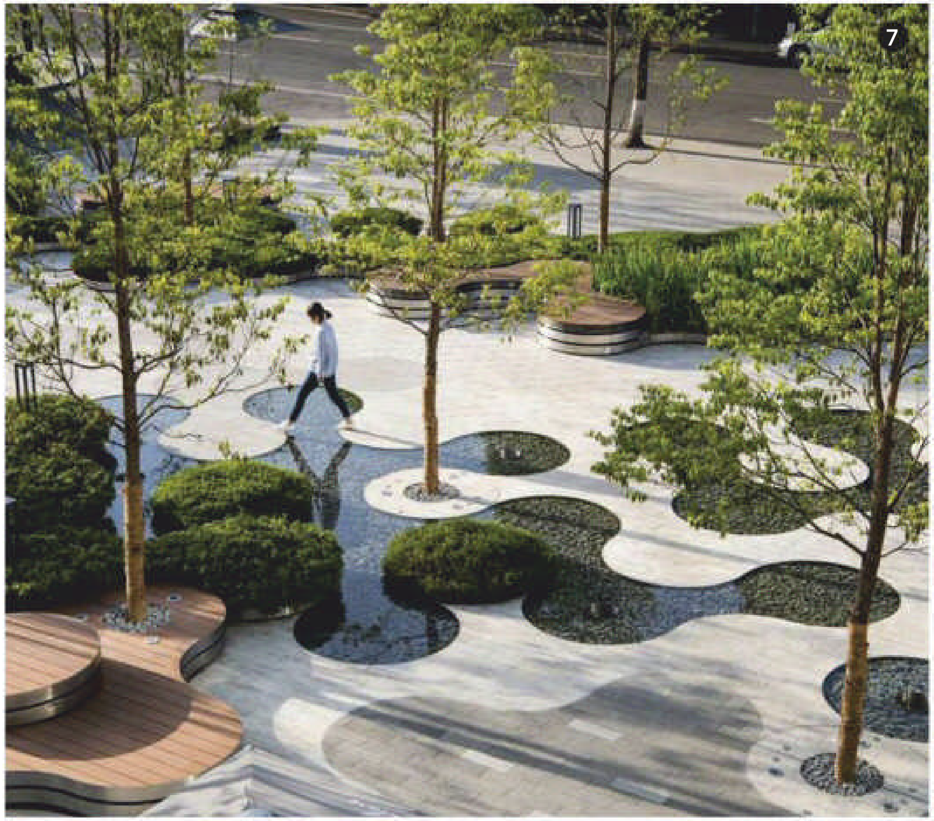
3 PUBLIC ART UK / MIKE JANSEN

BROOKLANDS PARK

5



6



7

8

5 TURKINGTON MARTIN; 6 ERIKS BOZIS; 7 ASPECT STUDIOS / LUBING; 8 LUCY SHERGOLD PHOTOGRAPHY

⑤ BROOKLANDS PARK

A new masterplan for Brooklands Park in Worthing, West Sussex has been revealed, which will create new ways of engaging with nature. A visitor hub incorporating a café overlooks the lake where a new path is flanked by timber seating. A network of paths extend the length of the park, leading to a series of 'rooms' with different characteristics, and sheltered by trees and shrubs. A circular community garden contains raised beds for food growing and cut flowers while the Play and Build garden highlights the use of various natural materials, such as hazel and willow and cut logs, for play features. **adur-worthing.gov.uk**

⑥ WICKER PAVILION

A wicker pavilion by the award-winning Latvian architect and set designer Didzis Jaunzems is one of several contrasting installations in the third annual landscape architecture festival in Annecy, southeast France. Jaunzems has covered a curving wooden frame with 259 traditional Latvian wicker baskets that allow the light to filter through, creating striking patterns on the ground at Jardins de l'Europe. Other installations, include *Un Potager Dans La Ville*, a circular kitchen garden by the French Cultures Urbaines duo Guillaume Popineau and David Trigolet that celebrates old cultivars of edible plants. **annecy-paysages.com**

⑦ HYPERLANE PARK

Landscape architect practice ASPECT Studios has completed the first phase of a multilevel linear park in Chengdu, China. The 2.4km park connects student accommodation to the university campus, and the campus to the railway station. Urban Gallery, the first phase of the Hyperlane project, consists of a walkway with a network of organically shaped planters, rain gardens and multi-directional seating set within a layer of trees. The Performance Gallery provides a space for cultural gatherings and open-air theatre. Planting has been selected to encourage insects, birds and other wildlife. **aspect-studios.com**

⑧ HORATIO'S LONDON

The fifth garden funded by the charity Horatio's Garden has opened at the London Spinal Cord Injury Centre at Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital in Stanmore, Greater London. The design by Tom Stuart-Smith features a sunny, social space centred on a garden room designed by Stephen Marshall, while a semi-shady birch wood has three smaller pods that allow patients and their visitors to spend time together in the garden. A group of volunteers working alongside head gardener Ashley Edwards, planted some 10,000 plants, including 336 trees and shrubs. **horatiosgarden.org.uk**

ITALIAN TERRACE

EXCEPTIONAL TERRACOTTA
01284 789666
italianterrace.co.uk

Genus
PERFORMANCE GARDENWEAR

YOU'RE TOTALLY DRY IN TOTALLY WATERPROOF TROUSERS, THAT'S GENUS

WOMEN'S WATERPROOF GARDENING TROUSERS

Designed by gardeners for gardeners. Technical outdoor clothing packed with special gardening features:

— Totally waterproof
— Integrated, breathable kneepads
— Stab-proof pockets
— Showerproof fabric

www.GENUS.GS

Endorsed by
RHS
Inspiring everyone to grow

© The Royal Horticultural Society. Endorsed by the Royal Horticultural Society. Registered Charity No 222879/SC038262. rhs.org.uk

MADE IN BRITAIN

RHINO
greenhousesdirect

THE GREAT BRITISH RHINO

perfectly evolved for

THE GREAT BRITISH WEATHER

Whatever the weather, you can depend on your Rhino greenhouse to see you through. Protect your plants and find peace of mind with your own personal sanctuary. Guaranteed for 25 years.

0808 301 6269
rhinogreenhouses.co.uk

SOURCEBOOK

Spades

Make light work of digging this autumn with an efficient, long-handled spade

COMPILED BY KATIE DUTTON

PRO'S CHOICE
Bronze Spade,
£130, Great Dixter Shop,
01797 252878, greatdixter.co.uk

CARBON STEEL BLADE
True Temper Drain Spade,
£27.99, ScrewFix,
0333 011 2112, screwfix.com

FOR TIGHT SPACES
Sneeboer Long Narrow Spade,
£111.95, Harrod Horticultural,
0333 400 1500, harrodhorticultural.com

SECURE GRIP
Gardener's Mate Digging Spade,
£16.99, Waterside Garden Centre,
01778 560000, watersidegardencentre.co.uk

CLASSIC DESIGN
Kent & Stowe Stainless Steel Digging Spade,
£29.99, Marshalls,
0344 557 6700, marshallsgarden.com

HARD WEARING
Bulldog 'Powerbreaker' Insulated Digging Spade,
£54, Rollins,
01279 401570, rollins.co.uk

LIGHTWEIGHT
Fiskars Digging Head Digging Spade,
£36.99, ScrewFix,
0333 011 2112, screwfix.com

MULTI-PURPOSE
Original Root Assassin Shovel & Saw,
£64.95, Harrod Horticultural,
0333 400 1500, harrodhorticultural.com

POINTED BLADE
Golden Spade,
£34, Niwaki,
01747 445059, niwaki.com

READYHEDGE® Care.

Our instant hedging is cared for by experts at every stage - in the field, in the container and during despatch.

Variety shown: Osmanthus burkwoodii

01386 750585

lindsay@readyhedge.com

matthew@readyhedge.com

www.readyhedge.com

Poddy & Black

Natural rubber shoes, boots and clogs

Fabulously floral, seriously comfortable, totally waterproof

www.poddyandblack.com
+44 (0)20 3633 7288

artisan
PLANT SUPPORTS
www.artisanplantsupports.co.uk

A range of beautiful hand crafted steel plant supports and obelisks designed to provide architectural structure within the garden whilst also complimenting and enhancing the plants features.

Visit our website or telephone to request a brochure:

www.artisanplantsupports.co.uk
Email: info@artisanplantsupports.co.uk Tel: 01538 753128
Woodside Farm, Clamgoose Lane Kingsley Moor, Staffordshire ST10 2EG

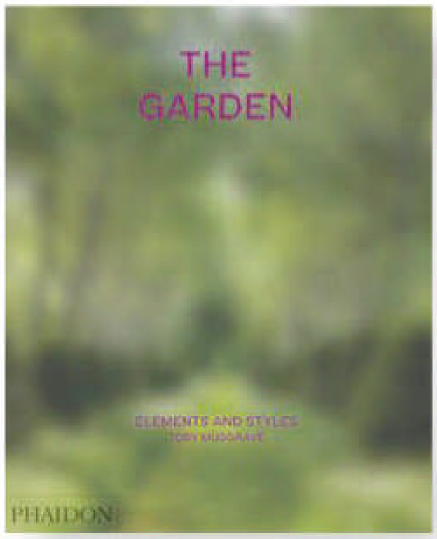
DOWNTOOLS

Book reviews, reader offer, crossword, back issues

As well as looking at the sumptuous gardens of 30 creatives, *The Kinfolk Garden*, reviewed on page 103, offers advice on how to dry and press flowers.

HANNU J HONGISTO

BOOK REVIEWS



THE GARDEN: ELEMENTS AND STYLES

by Dr Toby Musgrave

Phaidon, £49.95
ISBN 978-1838660765

An encyclopedic A-to-Z compendium of more than 200 garden elements, styles, features and ornaments for gardeners around the globe.

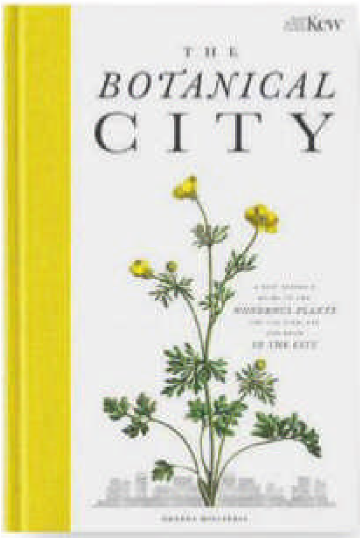
Reviewer Rae Spencer-Jones is books publisher at the RHS.

Phaidon is well known for publishing lavish tomes to the highest standards. This one by garden historian Dr Toby Musgrave is no exception and the cloth-bound cover, impressively large format and generous use of images is nothing less than the subject matter deserves.

Over 200 entries – from Allée to Zeitgeist – are arranged alphabetically with helpful cross-references, and each one is accompanied by images: some full page, others arranged as montages to showcase examples from around the world. This is a journey through 3,000 years of garden making that covers garden and planting styles, architectural elements and garden features. There are references to every period of garden history from the first Islamic gardens of the 7th century through Renaissance gardens to Piet Oudolf’s currently voguish New Perennial planting style.

With dazzling photography of arboretums and bedding schemes, sublime images of naturalistic planting, hedges and flowery meads, as well as garden elements such as the *corbeille* (a French term for the wicker basket work used to edge flower and fruit beds), the reader can’t help but be drawn into the text. What is a *chadar* for example? It turns out it’s a ‘form of chute used to move water from one terrace or level down to the next’ popular in Islamic gardens. But that’s not all, there is also an insight into how a *chadar* might be incorporated into contemporary garden design – a technique the author uses repeatedly throughout the book.

Assuming its large format will allow, this book may well grace the shelves of many a student of garden design, landscape architecture and horticulture as a fabulous reference title and source of inspiration. But it will just as easily appeal to plant lovers who can wile away many an hour delving into the sumptuous photography while learning a thing or two about the wonders of the garden.



THE BOTANICAL CITY

by Hélèna Dove and Harry Adès

Hoxton Mini Press, £25
ISBN 978-1910566794

Take time to appreciate the hidden wonders of urban plants and discover recipes, herbal remedies and ancient folklore in this richly illustrated guide.

Reviewer Catherine Smalley is a freelance garden and nature writer.

The Botanical City is a visual feast. Uncovering the wildflowers, ferns, mosses and fungi that flourish in the urban jungle, every page turn reveals another delightful botanical illustration to savour. Even common ‘weeds’, such as sow thistle and nettle, are rendered in such glorious detail as to cast them in a new light.

Each artwork has been lovingly reproduced from hand-coloured copperplates contained in the 18th-century book *Flora Londinensis*. In fact, this masterpiece written by English botanist William Curtis is the basis and inspiration of the book. Over a period of 20 years, Curtis laboured to create a comprehensive study of the flora growing within a ten-mile radius of London.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and Hoxton Mini Press have collaborated to bring Curtis’s original aim to a modern audience; educating city dwellers of the wondrous plant life on their doorsteps. It might seem unlikely but London, and other temperate cities, are fertile ground for a host of species that push through the pavements, bloom on waste ground and scale up buildings.

The plants are divided into chapters based on their practical use: Eat, Make, Grow, Kill and Heal. I was captivated by the entertaining mix of folklore, anatomical detail, herbal remedies, recipes and craft ideas. Did you know that field scabious derives its name from the Latin *scabere* meaning ‘to scratch’ due to its ability to treat itchy skin? Or that you can use the garlicky leaves of jack-in-the-hedge in salads, soups and dips?

The plant descriptions by authors Hélèna Dove and Harry Adès are as charming as the images. Mallow, for instance, ‘is a large and friendly plant, waving its hand-sized leaves at each passing car from roadside verges’. This hardback is a real gem; a pleasure to dip into and a handy reference book for years to come.

THE
KINFOLK
GARDEN
HOW to LIVE WITH NATURE
JOHN BURNS

THE KINFOLK GARDEN: HOW TO LIVE WITH NATURE

by John Burns

Artisan Books, £30
ISBN 978-1579659844

Fans of design-led gardening and slow living will relish this sumptuous new book from the creative lifestyle magazine Kinfolk.

Reviewer Katie Dutton is editorial assistant for Gardens Illustrated.

The *Kinfolk Garden* challenges the conventions of a traditional garden; from plants overflowing on a roof in Paris to unkempt shrubbery in the sprawling Californian desert, there are no neat flower beds and picket fences here. Thirty creatives from around the world have opened their doors, to let us see just how far the boundaries can be pushed when it comes to our outdoor spaces.

The book is split into three chapters; Care, Creativity and Community. Gardens are overshadowed slightly in the second section, with greater focus on how plants and flowers are used as inspiration in the creative process, but the first and last chapters are filled with sumptuous photographs of gardens that most of us can only dream of.

These are truly innovative gardens. Take the Italian writer Umberto Pasti, for instance, whose idea of creating a garden of endangered Moroccan plants came to him as he dozed beneath a fig tree. His garden in Tangier is now a haven for botanists. Or Ron Finley in Los Angeles, who became a gardening activist after planting seeds on a portion of his pavement – previously against the law without a permit. His permanent edible community garden now provides fresh produce in what used to be a fast-food hotspot.

There is a recurring theme of rejecting formality when creating a garden, or using plants and flowers, and instead following one's own natural instincts. More than anything, there is a message that by being in touch with the earth, in our own gardens especially, we are liberated from the everyday stresses of modern life. As the Moroccan garden designer and ethno-botanist Abderrazzak Benchaâbane puts it, 'people don't care for plants, but plants care for people.' The styles and aesthetics may change, but the positive effects of the garden and gardening are timeless.

MARK LANE
ROYAL GARDENS OF THE WORLD

ROYAL GARDENS OF THE WORLD: 21 CELEBRATED GARDENS FROM THE ALHAMBRA TO HIGHGROVE AND BEYOND

by Mark Lane

Kyle Books, £35
ISBN 978-0857838018

An exploration of some of the most celebrated royal gardens, from the splendour of Peterhof Palace in St Petersburg to the organic gardens at Highgrove.

Reviewer Matthew Biggs is a Kew-trained gardener and presenter.

In this delightful book, garden designer and BBC *Gardeners' World* presenter Mark Lane takes you on his personally curated Grand Tour, through Europe to India, Japan and Bali, to visit 21 famous royal gardens he believes have had an impact on garden design and history.

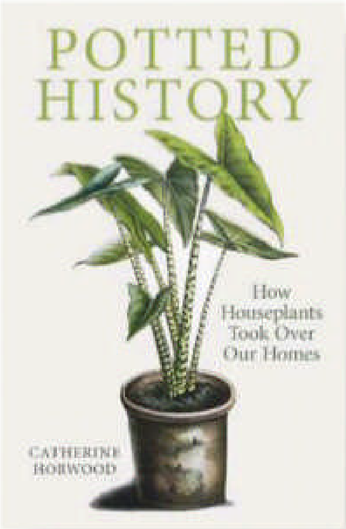
Each meticulously researched chapter tells the detailed story of the evolution and wider historic and political background of one garden, making effective use of quotes, statistics and fascinating facts, to paint a wide-ranging overview. Although grandiose formality prevails, more intimate glimpses into the personalities involved and their private passions along with some smaller gardens adds a welcome human touch.

It is interesting to discover more detail about HRH Prince Charles's passion for sustainability, the early days of the collections at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and the varied career of John Graefer, who trained at the Chelsea Physic Garden, was influential at the Royal Palace of Caserta, Italy and eventually became bailiff of Admiral Nelson's estate in Bronte, Sicily. (Lane researched the lives of 950 individuals while preparing this book.)

The book sits comfortably in the hand and is crafted, with an eye-catching, embossed cover. The quality of photography is outstanding throughout (it is easy to imagine you are standing in the gardens), and there are some revealing perspectives – especially the aerial views with minimal captions that encourage the reader to observe the details for themselves.

The detail in the text and comprehensive bibliography would be an invaluable resource for students of garden history and design. In these days of restricted travel, it is a pleasure to visit these great royal gardens from your own armchair and to share this labour of love from an erudite enthusiast, who has been immensely generous with his time, effort and knowledge.

BOOK REVIEWS



POTTED HISTORY: HOW HOUSEPLANTS TOOK OVER OUR HOMES

by Catherine Horwood

Pimpernel Press, £9.99
ISBN 978-1910258941

As houseplants undergo a renaissance in popularity this interesting book on the history of the houseplant has been fully revised and brought up to date.

Reviewer Rosanna Morris is a freelance writer.

It has been an exciting few years for the houseplant. You only have to scroll through countless Instagram photos of *Oxalis triangularis* or notice the number of independent plant shops propagating on high streets to understand how much they are enjoying a renaissance. String of hearts (*Ceropegia linearis* subsp. *woodii*) trail down walls, Swiss cheese vines (*Monstera adansonii*) in macramé hangers dangle from ceilings, and statuesque fiddle-leaf figs (*Ficus lyrata*) tower over sofas in homes up and down the land.

So much has changed in the story of the houseplant since social historian Catherine Horwood originally published her book *Potted History* in 2007 on how and why plants came to be an integral part of interior design. Now, 13 years on, she has written a final new chapter and published this updated second edition.

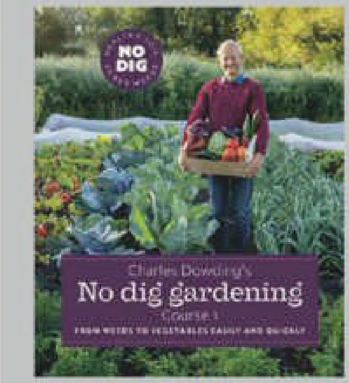
In her new chapter, Horwood makes the claim that houseplants are now more popular than they were in the Victorian era, which was a boom time for indoor gardening with advances in travel and technology and the golden age of conservatory building (a subject covered earlier in the book). She discusses how many people have plants in their homes today and why she thinks this ‘green revolution’ has come about.

For those who have not encountered this book before, it is a fascinating history of the houseplant that looks at how plants have been used inside the home through the centuries from as early as the 1600s. The new addition is a thought-provoking read and explores reasons why the fashion for houseplants can wax and wane.

Colour images have been removed from this revised version, while the simple black and white illustrations remain. The cover has also had an update. It is now a drawing of a stripy elephant ear (*Alocasia zebrina*) – one of the most popular indoor plants today, according to Horwood.

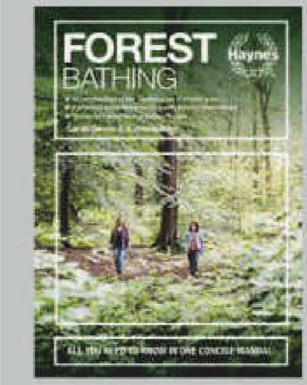
Other books

From mastering the basics of no dig gardening to advice on forest bathing, the best of the rest of this month's books



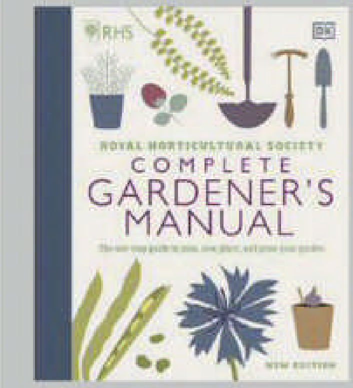
CHARLES DOWDING'S NO DIG GARDENING

by Charles Dowding
No Dig Garden, £22.50
ISBN 978-1916092037
Based on Charles's online course, a guide to no dig gardening, with advice on planning your layout and using no dig on different soil types.



FOREST BATHING

by Sarah Devos and Katriina Kilpi
JH Haynes & Co, £12.99
ISBN 978-1785217364
An introduction to the Japanese art of *shinrin-yoku* with practical advice on how to approach the concept: and the best times to choose to connect with nature.



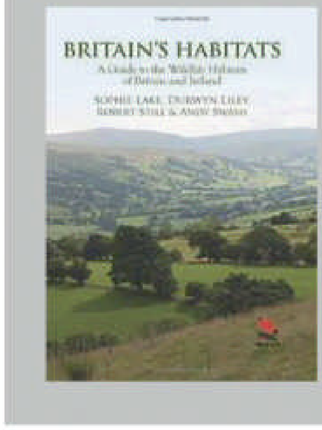
RHS COMPLETE GARDENER'S MANUAL

DK, £25
ISBN 978-0241432433
An updated, one-stop guide from the RHS that covers every aspect of gardening, from designing a border for year-round colour to pruning techniques.

The Hedgehog Book

THE HEDGEHOG BOOK

by Hugh Warwick,
Graffeg, £9.99
ISBN 978-1913134419
The latest in the compact, accessible Nature Books series, exploring our relationship with one of Britain's best-loved wild animals.

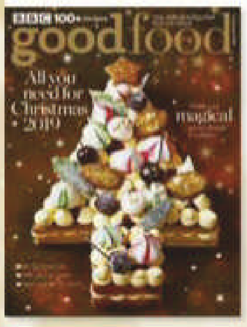


BRITAIN'S HABITATS

by Sophie Lake, Durwyn Liley, Robert Still and Andy Swash
Princeton University Press, £25
ISBN 978-0691203591
A comprehensive overview of the wildlife habitats in Britain and Ireland, redesigned in a handy field-guide format.

GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM ONLY £29.99

FOOD

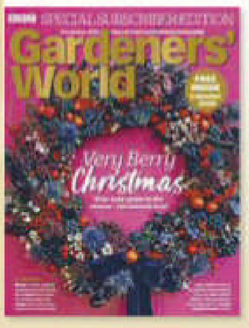


12 ISSUES FOR £29.99
SAVE 49%

13 ISSUES FOR £29.99
SAVE 51%

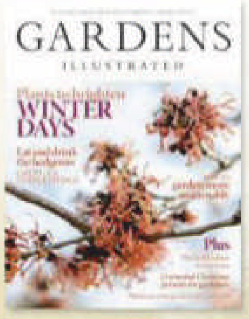
10 ISSUES FOR £19.99
SAVE 43%

HOMES AND GARDENING



12 ISSUES FOR £39.99
SAVE 39%

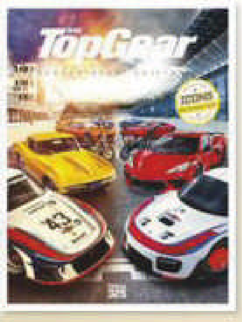
13 ISSUES FOR £29.99
SAVE 54%



13 ISSUES FOR £29.99
SAVE 54%

13 ISSUES FOR £19.99
SAVE 38%

LIFESTYLE

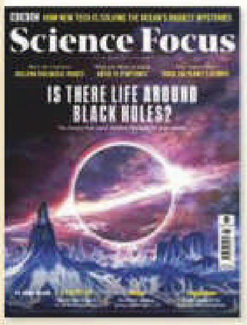


13 ISSUES FOR £29.99
SAVE 53%

26 ISSUES FOR £59.99
SAVE 39%

13 ISSUES FOR £39.99
SAVE 49%

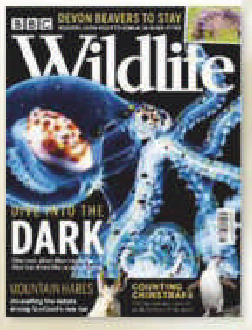
SCIENCE AND NATURE



14 ISSUES FOR £34.99
SAVE 52%

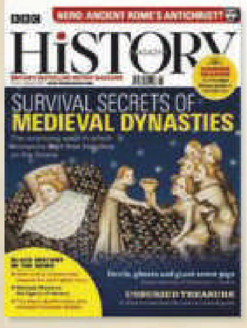
12 ISSUES FOR £34.99
SAVE 47%

13 ISSUES FOR £29.99
SAVE 51%

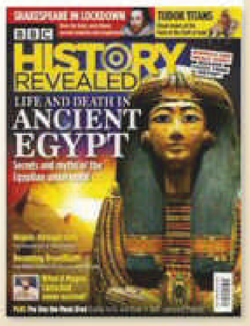


13 ISSUES FOR £29.99
SAVE 49%

HISTORY



13 ISSUES FOR £34.99
SAVE 51%



13 ISSUES FOR £29.99
SAVE 58%

SPORT

13 ISSUES FOR £37.99
SAVE 51%

20 ISSUES FOR £39.99
SAVE 29%

13 ISSUES FOR £37.99
SAVE 47%

CRAFT

13 ISSUES FOR £46.99
SAVE 49%

13 ISSUES FOR £44.99
SAVE 46%

TAKE THE HASSLE OUT OF YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AND GIVE A GIFT THAT LASTS ALL YEAR

ORDER NOW!

Subscribing online is quick and easy. Visit

buysubscriptions.com/christmas

✓ mobile-friendly site ✓ safe and secure ✓ easy search

or call our hotline **0330 053 8660**† **QUOTE CODE: X20AD**

Remember ordering online is safe and secure, choose from any of these payment options

VISA MasterCard Direct Debit PayPal

SEE OUR FULL RANGE OF MAGAZINES ONLINE

This offer closes on the 31st December 2020 and is valid for UK delivery addresses only. The discounts shown are savings calculated as a percentage of the full shop price, excluding Radio Times and Match of the Day which are calculated as a percentage of the Basic Annual Rate. For overseas rates visit www.buysubscriptions.com. All Christmas gift subscriptions will start with the first issue available in January 2021. Should the magazine change in frequency, we will honour the number of issues and not the term of the subscription. †UK calls will cost the same as other standard fixed line numbers (starting 01 or 02) and are included as part of any inclusive or free minutes allowances (if offered by your phone tariff). Outside of free call packages call charges from mobile phones will cost between 3p and 55p per minute. Lines are open Mon to Fri 9am – 5pm. *Radio Times is published weekly and Radio Times subscriptions are for 26 issues. The Basic Annual UK Subscription Rate of Radio Times is £193. This price is for one year and includes the Christmas double issue and a contribution towards postage. Match of the Day is published bi-weekly and Match of the Day subscriptions are for 20 issues. The Basic Annual UK Rate for Match of the Day is £67.50 for 25 issues.

READER OFFER

Save 10%* on bulbs for pollinators from organicbulbs.com

Crocus x *luteus* 'Golden Yellow'

Muscari armeniacum

Fritillaria meleagris

Narcissus 'Thalia'

Camassia leichtlinii subsp. *suksdorfii* Caerulea Group

Allium stipitatum 'Mount Everest'

Designers Lulu Urquhart and Adam Hunt of Organic Bulbs have put together a selection of some of the best spring-flowering bulbs we can grow in our gardens to provide a long and rich season of nectar for our all-important pollinating insects. All of their bulbs are grown without using any chemicals or pesticides, including neonicotinoids. The range is based around bulbs that naturalise, so will come back in your garden year after year naturally.

See organicbulbs.com for full range. Or take advantage of this 10 per cent discount* for *Gardens Illustrated* readers on the following selection of colourful, spring-flowering bulbs that will also delight pollinators.

***Crocus* x *luteus* 'Golden Yellow'**
Great for naturalising. A bright, rich-yellow flower that works beautifully against the low light levels in early March. H 10cm. AGM. £10.95 for 20. **OFFER PRICE £9.85**

Muscari armeniacum
Grow in moist but well-drained soil in full sun or partial shade. Flowers April/May and loved by the hairy-footed flower bee. H 15cm. AGM. £7.95 for 20. **OFFER PRICE £7.15**

Fritillaria meleagris
Enchanting and bashful in habit; purple-chequered, hanging bells. Great planted in clumps on lawn. Flowers April. H 30cm. AGM. £10.50 for 20. **OFFER PRICE £9.45**

***Narcissus* 'Thalia'**
Charming and classic with a sweet fragrance, and increases in number year after year. A treasure in the meadows and perfect for lawns and borders. Flowers April/May. H 35cm. £12.95 for 20. **OFFER PRICE £11.66**

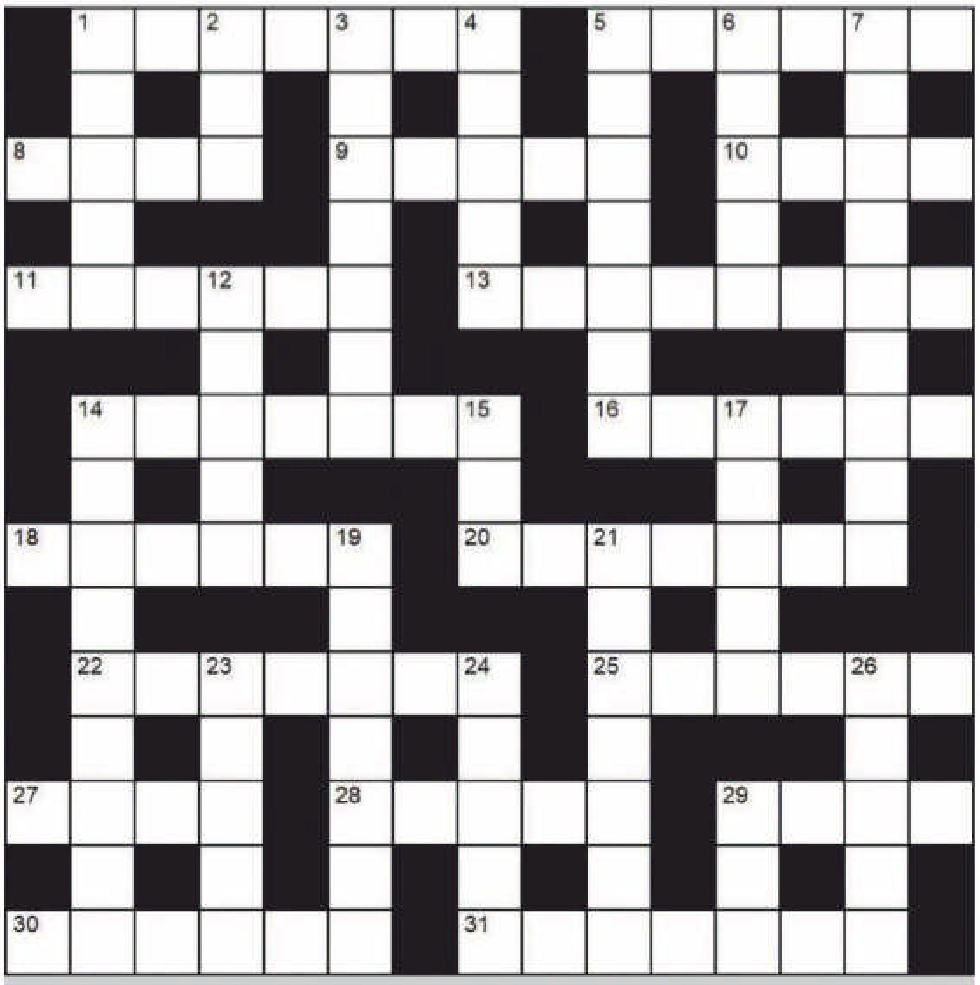
***Camassia leichtlinii* subsp. *suksdorfii* Caerulea Group**
Bright and welcome feast for bees and pollinators in early summer, the wild hyacinth looks elegant and graceful, naturalising in drifts. Flowers mid May. H 80cm. £12.95 for 5. **OFFER PRICE £11.66**

***Allium stipitatum* 'Mount Everest'**
Splendid 15cm-wide, pure-white flower umbels in May-June. Rich in pollen and nectar, attracting butterflies, moths, bees and other pollinating insects. H 1m. AGM. £13.95 for 5. **OFFER PRICE £12.56**

HOW TO ORDER

To order bulbs and claim your 10 per cent discount*, please visit organicbulbs.com, make your selection and apply code **GIOB2020** at the checkout. Alternatively email sales@organicbulbs.com.
Offer expires 30 November 2020.
P&P is calculated by weight with a standard starting cost of £4.95. EU orders accepted.
*Discount applies to these specific bulbs only and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.

Crossword



ACROSS

1 The cucumber genus (7)
5 Creamy white flowering dicentra (now *Lamprocapnos*) – 'Daybreak' (6)
8 Use shears lightly – a bargain! (4)
9 Scandinavian turnip-like vegetable (5)
10/2 Also called marsh marigold (7)
11 See 17 down
13 Galanthophiles love this flower (8)
14 Cut eg dogwood to ground level to produce new colourful stems (7)
16 Enquire if fellow… holds an upright spring onion variety (6)
18 *Achillea*'s common name – mature courgette with different head (6)
20 Contorted like old wood in a stumpery (7)
22 A red double-flowered dianthus – strong emotion! (7)
25 Flowering shrub in the honeysuckle family – "Possessed by Mabel?" I asked (6)
27 Trim eg a lawn's perimeter (4)
28 *Tillandsia* plants don't need this to grow in! (5)
29 Choice greengage, say? (4)
30 The genus of 10 across… found in prolific althaeas (6)
31 Species term for 'spearheaded' like eg *Verbena* ___ leaves (in Shasta taxa?) (7)

DOWN

1 Shaped like a *Cupressus* fruit (5)
2 See 10 across
3 Genus of grape hyacinth (7)
4 They enable plants to reproduce (5)
5 Genus/common name of 'windflower' plant – name one alternative (7)
6 Removed moss etc from a lawn? (5)
7 As a plant past its best will do – rue doesn't, strangely (3,2,4)
12 Edible flower bud of *Capparis spinosa* – 'Frolic' (5)
14 Genus of plants aka 'Billy Buttons' – capsid are scattered (9)
15 Early stage of eg bee larva (3)
17/11 But it's truly a *Robinia* species! (5,6)
19 Deciduous shrub with funnel-shaped flowers eg 'Bristol Ruby' (7)
21 Genus of NZ's huge kauri pine – aghast I staggered! (7)
23/29 down Fragrant, colourful flower *Lathyrus odoratus*, good for cutting (5,3)
24 A named low-growing, pink tulip – or 'Han' perhaps (5)
26 Yellow-flowering aster relative… featured in Martinu *Largo* (5)
29 See 23 down

- **Solutions to this issue's crossword will be printed in the November issue**

SOLUTIONS TO THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE'S CROSSWORD

Across 1 Gardenia **6** Stipa **9** Buzz **10** Style **11** Flea **12** Sollyas **14/3** Torbay Dazzler **15** Agaric **17** Magnolia **19** Gentians **22** Lianas **24** Citrus **26** Isabell **28** Anna **29** Ulmus **31/33** Hemp agrimony **32** Snaps.

Down 2 Arums **4** NGS **5** Alyssum **6** Sweet **7** Inferno **8** Ageratina **13** Yucca **16** Glebionis **18** Gilia **20** Ternata **21** Skimmia **23** Anethum **25** Slugs **27** Lemon **30** Sir.

GARDENS
GARDENS

GARDENS
GARDENS

BUYING BACK ISSUES OF
GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED

PRINT VERSION
You can buy printed issues of the magazine published up to six months ago. See below for details.

DIGITAL VERSION
Save money when you subscribe to the digital edition – see page 30

CLOTHBOUND SLIPCASES
Cost from £9.99 each (inc p&p). *Subscriber discounts available – see below for details.*

TO ORDER PRINTED COPIES OR SLIPCASES
UNITED KINGDOM 03330 162114
OUTSIDE UK +44 1604 973722

GARDENS ILLUSTRATED PRINTED ISSUES ORDER FORM
Complete this form and send to: *Gardens Illustrated*, Back Issues, PO Box 3320, 3 Queensbridge, Northampton NN4 7BF (You may photocopy this form).

SINGLE ISSUES
I would like to order ___________ copy/copies of issue(s)___________

SUBSCRIBERS
☐UK £4.79 per copy
☐EU £5.59 per copy
☐Rest of world £6.39 per copy

NON-SUBSCRIBERS
☐UK £5.99 per copy
☐EU £6.99 per copy
☐Rest of world £7.99 per copy

CLOTHBOUND SLIPCASES
I would like to order ___________slipcase(s)

SUBSCRIBERS
☐UK £8.49 each
☐EU £9.45 each
☐Rest of world £10.80 each

NON-SUBSCRIBERS
☐UK £9.99 each
☐EU £10.50 each
☐Rest of world £12 each

Postage & packaging is included in all prices.

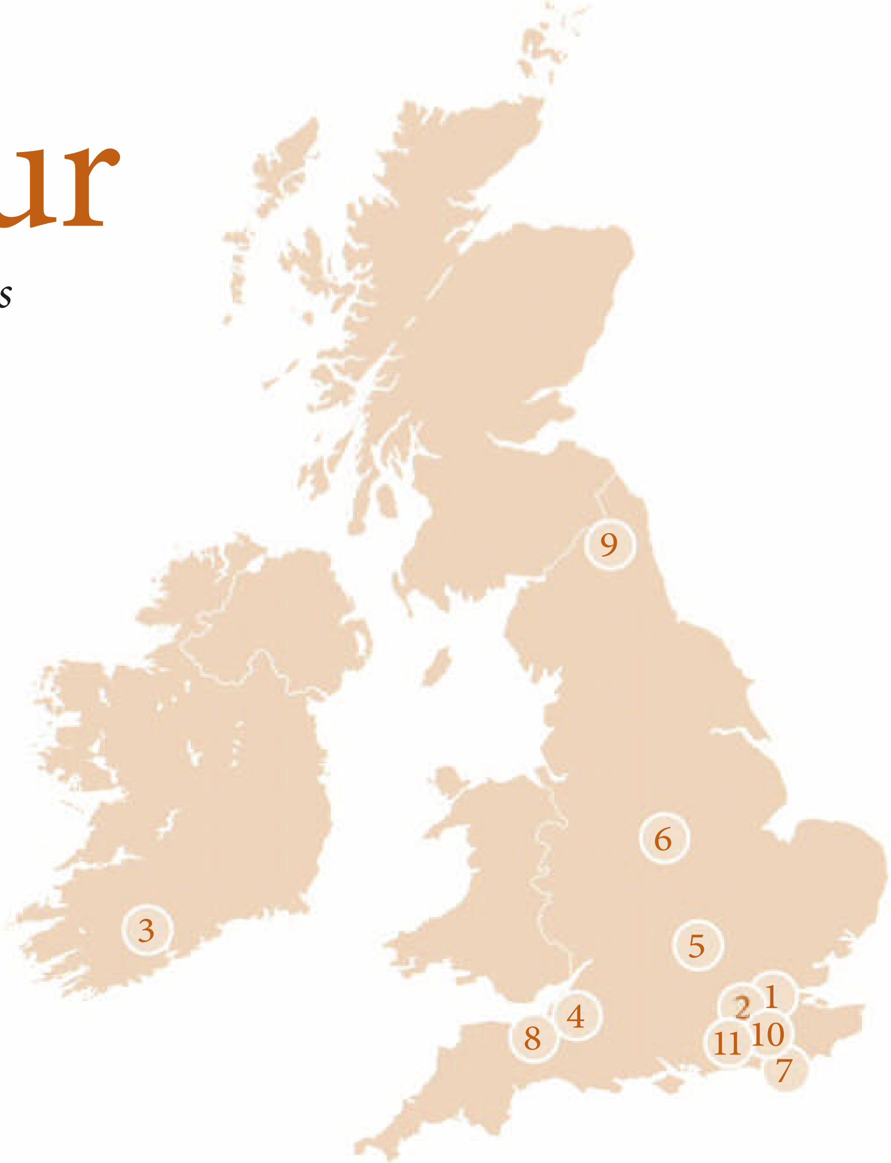
PAYMENT DETAILS
☐I enclose a cheque/international money order made payable to *Gardens Illustrated* for £ ___________
☐I would like to pay by credit/debit card, please debit my card
Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐
☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐
Expiry date ☐☐☐☐ Issue no. (if shown) ☐☐
Signature Date / /

YOUR DETAILS
Title Forename
Surname
Address
Post/Zip code
Daytime tel no.
Email address
Subscriber number (if applicable)

KEEP IN TOUCH
Gardens Illustrated (published by Immediate Media Company Limited) would like to send you updates, special offers and promotions by email. You can unsubscribe at any time.
Please tick here if you would like to receive these ☐
We would also like to keep in touch by post and telephone about other relevant offers and promotions from Immediate Media. If you do not wish to be contacted this way please tick here post☐ phone☐. For more information about how to change the way we contact you, and how we hold your personal information, please see our privacy policy, which can be viewed online at policies.immediate.co.uk/privacy

Autumn in colour

Autumn is a great time to visit this collection of stunning gardens



1 EMMETTS GARDEN

Notable for its collection of international trees and shrubs, Emmetts Garden shines in autumn. From the vivid dark red of the *Rhododendron* 'Whitethroat', the bold colours of the acers and liquidambar, to the toffee apple scent of the Katsura tree, Emmetts Garden delights the senses.

Kent TN14 6BA | 01732 868381 | nationaltrust.org.uk/emmetts-garden

2 CHARTWELL

Chartwell bursts with sights and spectacles each autumn. A feast for the eyes, there are pumpkins aplenty growing ripe in the Walled Garden. In the nearby orchard, you'll see an array of apple trees, and you can pick your own from the shop.

Kent, TN16 1PS | 01732 868381 | nationaltrust.org.uk/chartwell

3 BLARNEY CASTLE & GARDENS

Enjoy autumn at Blarney Castle and Gardens. The 60 acres of gardens are a joy to explore. Visit the prehistoric Fern Garden, our deadly Poison Garden, and our magical Rock Close. Stroll by the lake, riverside and woodlands or in the arboretums in all their autumn splendour. But don't forget to kiss the famous Blarney Stone! **Blarney, Cork, Ireland | blarneycastle.ie**

4 THE BISHOP'S PALACE & GARDENS, WELLS

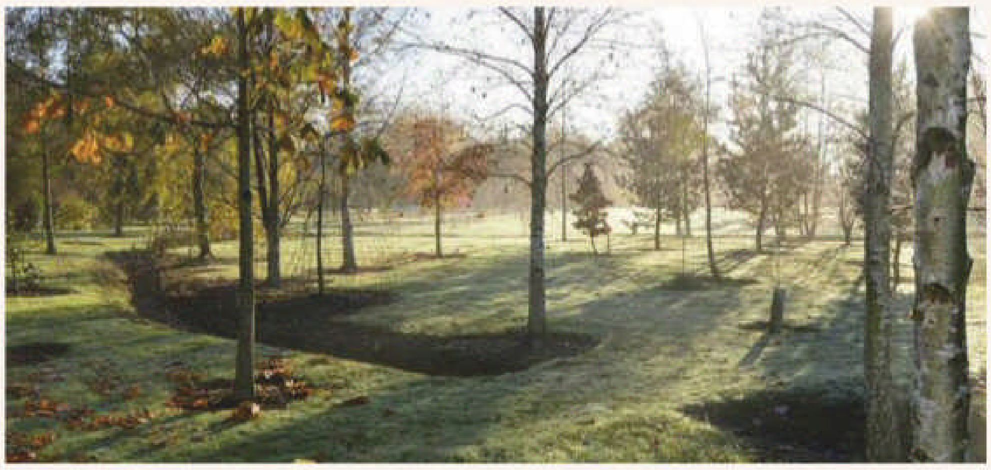
Over 14 acres of tranquil and spectacular RHS partner gardens, including picturesque, romantic, formal and Victorian styles, a wildflower arboretum, specimen trees, Quiet and Community Gardens alongside waterfalls, a moat with resident swans and a stunning medieval Palace. Covid-secure measures in place.

Wells, Somerset BA5 2PD | 01749 98811 | bishopspalace.org.uk

5 WATERPERRY GARDENS

Enjoy a visit to Waterperry's Ornamental Gardens, see our famous herbaceous border take centre stage when the Michaelmas daisies create a late flourish, and the beautiful autumn colours lead us into walks along the riverside. Waterperry Gardens a place to explore, relax and shop in beautiful surroundings all year round.

Nr Wheatley, Oxfordshire OX33 1LA | 01844 339226 | waterperrygardens.co.uk



6 BLUEBELL ARBORETUM & NURSERY

Visit our tranquil nine-acre woodland garden full of unusual trees and shrubs, many of which have been planted for their superb autumn colour! Many of the rarities on display are available for sale from our adjoining specialist plant nursery. RHS Partner Garden.

Smisby, South Derbyshire LE65 2TA | 01530 413700 | bluebellnursery.com

7 MICHELHAM PRIORY HOUSE & GARDENS

On this seven-acre island experience Autumnal colour of ancient trees, warm Liquid Amber, the buttery Tulip tree and the acers distinctive red and oranges, seedheads on a frosty morning, cyclamen, sedums, asters, Japanese anemones and autumn crocus and freshly baked cakes.

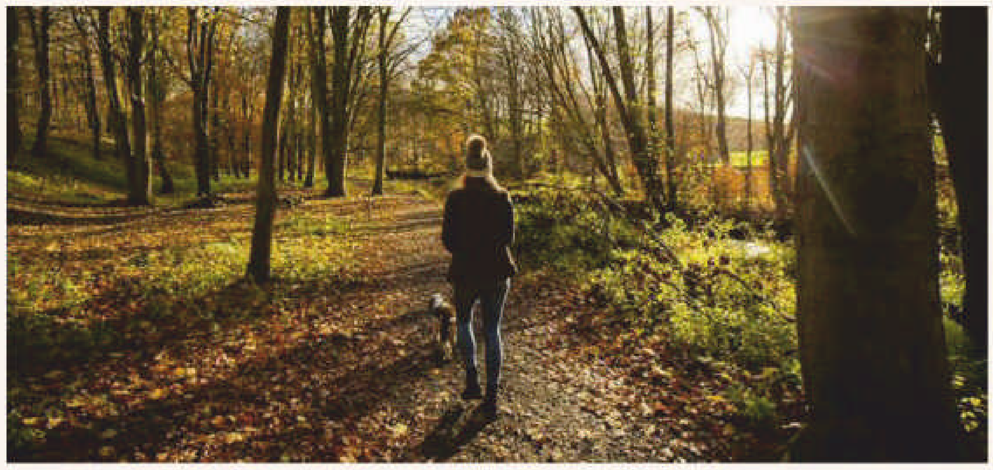
Nr Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 3QS | 01323 844224 | sussexpast.co.uk

Image: Chris Lacey

8 HESTERCOMBE GARDENS

While Jekyll's 'vibrating' summer colours continue well into October, notes of autumn arrive in earnest, including stunning crimson vines on the Pergola. A myriad of trees transform into warm browns and oranges outside Lutyens' charming Orangery, sweeping across the large Georgian Landscape Garden.

Taunton, Somerset TA2 8LQ | 01823 413923 | hestercombe.com



9 NATIONAL TRUST WALLINGTON

Reflected in the ponds, crunching under foot on the woodland walks and glistening in the walled garden, the autumn colours at Wallington are a must-see. Take time to explore the property and discover the magic of the season. And if in need of warmth, head to the Conservatory for a mesmerising display.

Northumberland, NE61 4AR | 01670 773 600 | nationaltrust.org.uk/wallington

10 HEVER CASTLE AND GARDENS

Autumn is the season when Hever's striking trees come to the fore. The Castle is arguably at its romantic best and you will be treated to glorious displays. Over the next six weeks, Hever is celebrating the different coloured areas of the grounds and encouraging visitors to practice the simple art of natural therapy.

Hever, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 7NG | 01732 865224 | hevercastle.co.uk

11 NATIONAL TRUST, NYMANS

Dramatic shows of vibrant colour in autumn with far-reaching views across the woodland and Sussex Weald. In the garden, a muted tapestry of coppers, yellows and greens form the backdrop to topiary and statuesque grasses. Exuberant plant combinations last long into the season, with salvias flowering well into darker days.

West Sussex, RH17 6EB | 01444 405 250 | nationaltrust.org.uk/nymans

Autumn inspiration

From beautiful craftsmanship to handmade pots and practical accessories, we can help to make your autumn garden special

ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

Introducing the *Architectural Heritage Hand Forged Iron Garden Dining & Furniture Collection.* Taking inspiration from the 19th-century French originals, this distinctive garden collection is hand forged with a long life outdoors in mind. Hand painted in white or to a colour of your choice.

01386 584414
architectural-heritage.co.uk

BACKDOORSHOES®

Introducing one of our new designs just in time for Christmas. Our gorgeous Butterflies will brighten up anyone's door! Lightweight, waterproof, durable. Easy to slip on/off they are so practical to keep by the back (or front) door when you need to nip outside to the garden. Sizes UK 3-14. More designs available online.

01202 232357
backdoorshoes.co.uk

THE DRYBOOT COMPANY

Sixty-five years on and still the UK's favourite, all purpose, all terrain, lace up boot. Handmade in Malaysia using only the finest quality natural rubber, Dryboots are designed to provide maximum protection and all-day comfort. In short, an ideal alternative to a cumbersome knee-length wellington. £69.99 per pair + p&p.

07974 977112
thedrybootcompany.com

WINNERS OF THE 2020
SME news
UK ENTERPRISE AWARD

STUART GARDEN ARCHITECTURE

Established as a leader in the design and manufacture of premium hardwood exterior and interior bespoke items, producing a wide range of landscape structures and bespoke garden features, including benches, pergolas, gazebos, and now developing designed limited edition interior products, dining tables, chairs and exclusive items.

01984 667458
stuartgarden.com

WONDERLAND BOUTIQUE

Why not treat yourself to a stunning Reversible Cotton Jacket from Wonderland Boutique? Visit www.wonderlandboutique.com for our selection of individual, stylish and affordable jackets and pure silk scarves. The jacket shown is £69 with free p&p and is available in various colourways.

01263 732643
wonderlandboutique.com

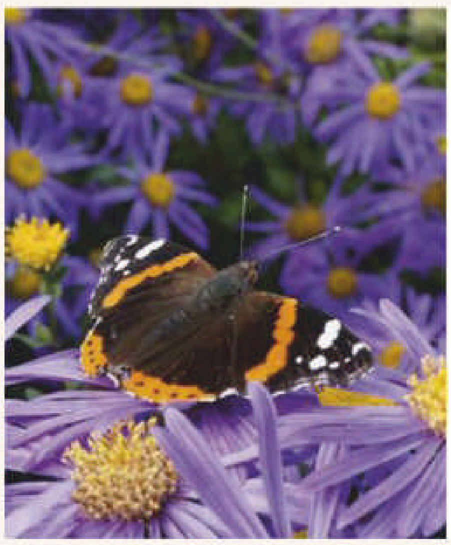
MISTY CASHMERE

Misty Cashmere's classic timeless styles for women and men come in cashmere, merino and yak yarn. Knitted in a substantial 7-gauge the block colour jumpers are fun to wear and will keep you warm! Gift wrapping available. 10% discount with code GI10.

01273 401827
mistycashmere.co.uk

Nursery guide

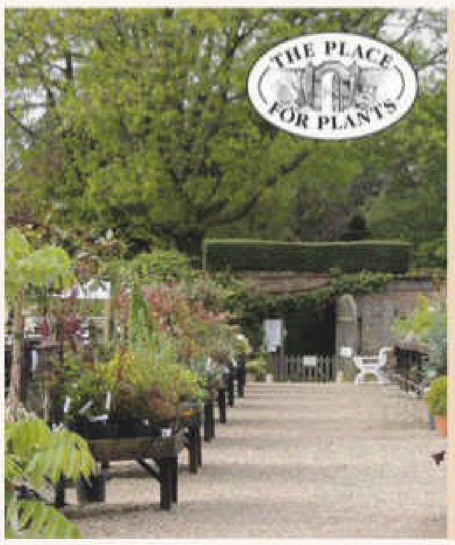
Get inspired for the autumn season with the best plant and bulb suppliers



OLD COURT NURSERIES

Michaelmas daisy specialists since 1906. Asters, late season perennials, succulents and more available by mail order. Catalogue available by request or online. Now is a perfect time to plan your 2021 autumn displays.

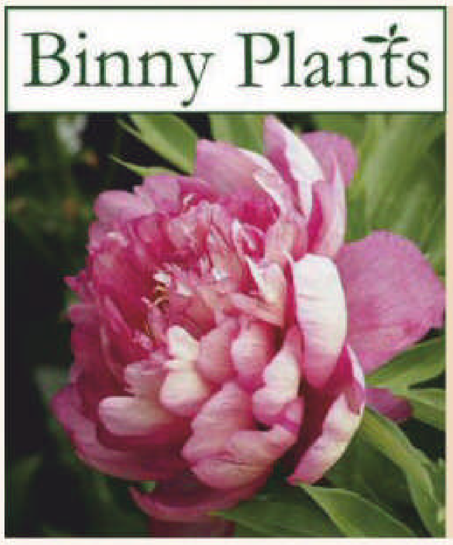
autumnasters.co.uk
01684 540416



THE PLACE FOR PLANTS

Renowned traditional plant centre located in Victorian walled garden with adjoining 20-acre garden and arboretum. Newly stocked with bulbs as well as trees and shrubs. East Begholt Place, East Bergholt, Suffolk CO7 6UP.

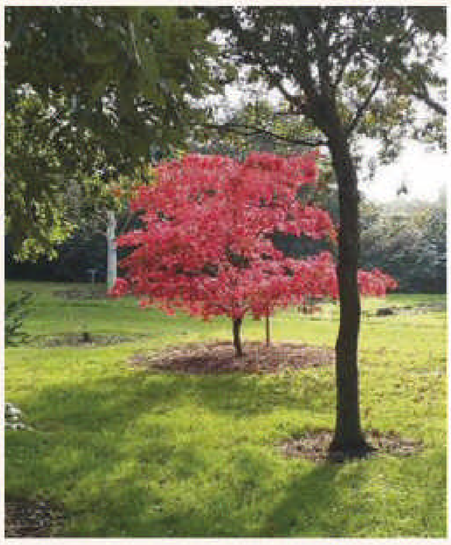
placeforplants.co.uk
01206 299224



BINNY PLANTS

2020/21 catalogue online. Over 250 herbaceous, intersectional, and tree peonies ready for October/November delivery. Printed catalogue – 4 x 1st class stamps to – Binny Plants, Ecclesmachan, EH526NL. Over 1,500 perennials, grasses, shrubs and ferns.

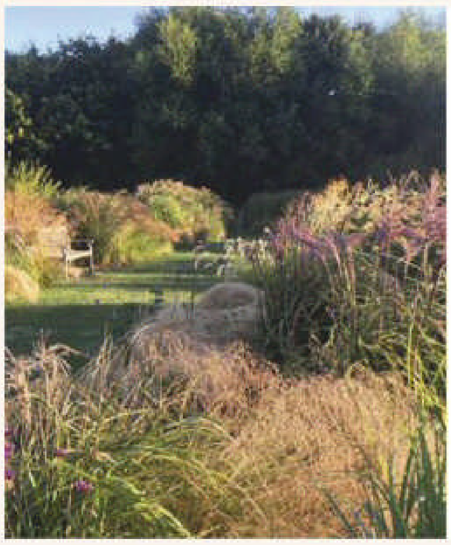
binnyplants.com
contact@binnyplants.com



BLUEBELL ARBORETUM & NURSERY

Specialists in hardy trees, shrubs and climbers including a huge selection of unusual species and varieties. Informative website and a reliable mail-order service is available.

bluebellnursery.com
01530 413700



MEADOWGATE NURSERY

A family-run, independent nursery, specialising in ornamental grasses. Over ten years' experience in growing a diverse range of grasses. We offer tailored advice on the use and care of the grasses we sell.

meadowgatenursery.co.uk
07736 523262

EDULIS NURSERY

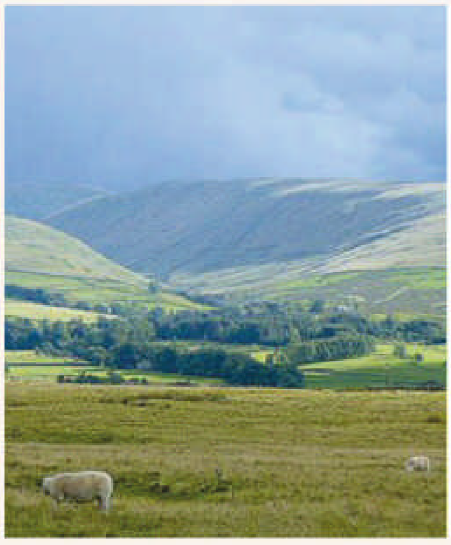
The nursery grows an eclectic mix of rare plants, including a large selection of unusual edible plants as well as many rare shady plants. Most plants in the nursery are hardy and relatively easy to grow.

edulis.co.uk
07802 812781

WOOTTENS OF WENHASTON

Established for 25 years, Woottens is a traditional plant nursery selling hardy perennials. The nursery runs an efficient mail order service all year round. For 20% off this month use code AUTUMNPLANT on the website.

woottensplants.com
01502 478258



WEASDALE NURSERIES LTD

Hardy trees and shrubs from hardy beginnings at an elevation of 260m above sea level. Ask for a copy of our splendid 124-page mail order catalogue today.

weasdale.com
015396 23246

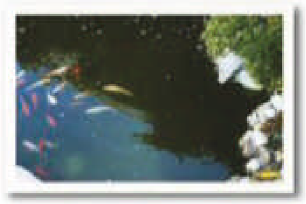
PRODUCTS

Aquaplancton

Voted Home and Garden "Product of the Year"

Pond before

Pond after



Aquaplancton has been clearing ponds of blanket weed, duckweed, algae, green water, sludge, slime, odour and clogged filters, for nearly 30 years. People re-order time and time again which says a lot for this safe, natural remedy.

www.aquaplancton.co.uk

Tel: 01298 214003

To advertise here call

Elle Butcher

on 0117 300 8756

or email

elle.butcher@immediate.co.uk

OVERTHROW

Traditional Sieve & Riddle Makers
Somerset England
EST. 2019

www.sievesandriddles.co.uk

Great Western House, Westover, Langport, Somerset, TA10 9RB - 07564478503

Advertisement

Source your plants, seeds and bulbs from a range of nurseries and specialised plants suppliers. Visit the online nursery directory at

www.gardensillustrated.com/directory

Image: Shutterstock

PRODUCTS

Fireguards for stoves

Handmade in Britain

catalogue available
01225 851577
garden-requisites.co.uk

GARDEN REQUISITES

BULBS

EUROBULBS

TOP QUALITY BULBS FOR SPRING FLOWERING

10 Plicatus Warham Snowdrop FREE with every £50 spent on bulbs

	25	50	100	500	1000
Double Snowdrops	£5	£8.50	£15	£70	£130
Elwessi Snowdrops	£11	£18	£35	-	-
Hyamalis (Winter Aconite)	£5	£8.50	£15	£70	£130
Cultivated English Bluebells	£5	£8	£14	£65	£120
Large Flowering Crocus Mix	£3	£5.50	£9.50	£42.50	-
Specie Crocus Golden Bunch	£3	£5.50	£9.50	£42.50	-
Specie Crocus Golden Bunch	£3	£5.50	£9.50	£42.50	-
Specie Crocus Whitewell Purple	£3	£5.50	£9.50	£42.50	-
Specie Crocus Blue Pearl	£3	£5.50	£9.50	£42.50	-

	25	50	100	500	1000
Fritillaria Meleagris	£5.50	£9	£17	-	-
Tete-a-Tete Narcissus	£4.50	£8.50	£15	£65	-
Rip Van Winkle Narcissus	£4.50	£8.50	£15	£65	-
Sailboat Narcissus	£4.50	£8.50	£15	£65	-
Chinodoxa Glory of the Snow	£2.25	£4	£7	-	-
Dutch Iris Mix	£2.25	£4	£7	-	-
Scilla Siberica Blue	£2.25	£4	£7	-	-
Mixed Garden Tulips	£4	£8	£14	-	-

NARCISSUS VARIETY PACK

25 each of: Pipit, Minnow, Hawera, Tete-a-Tete, Canaculatus, Rip Van Winkle, February Gold, Sailboat: **200 Bulbs For only £27.50**

CYCLAMEN

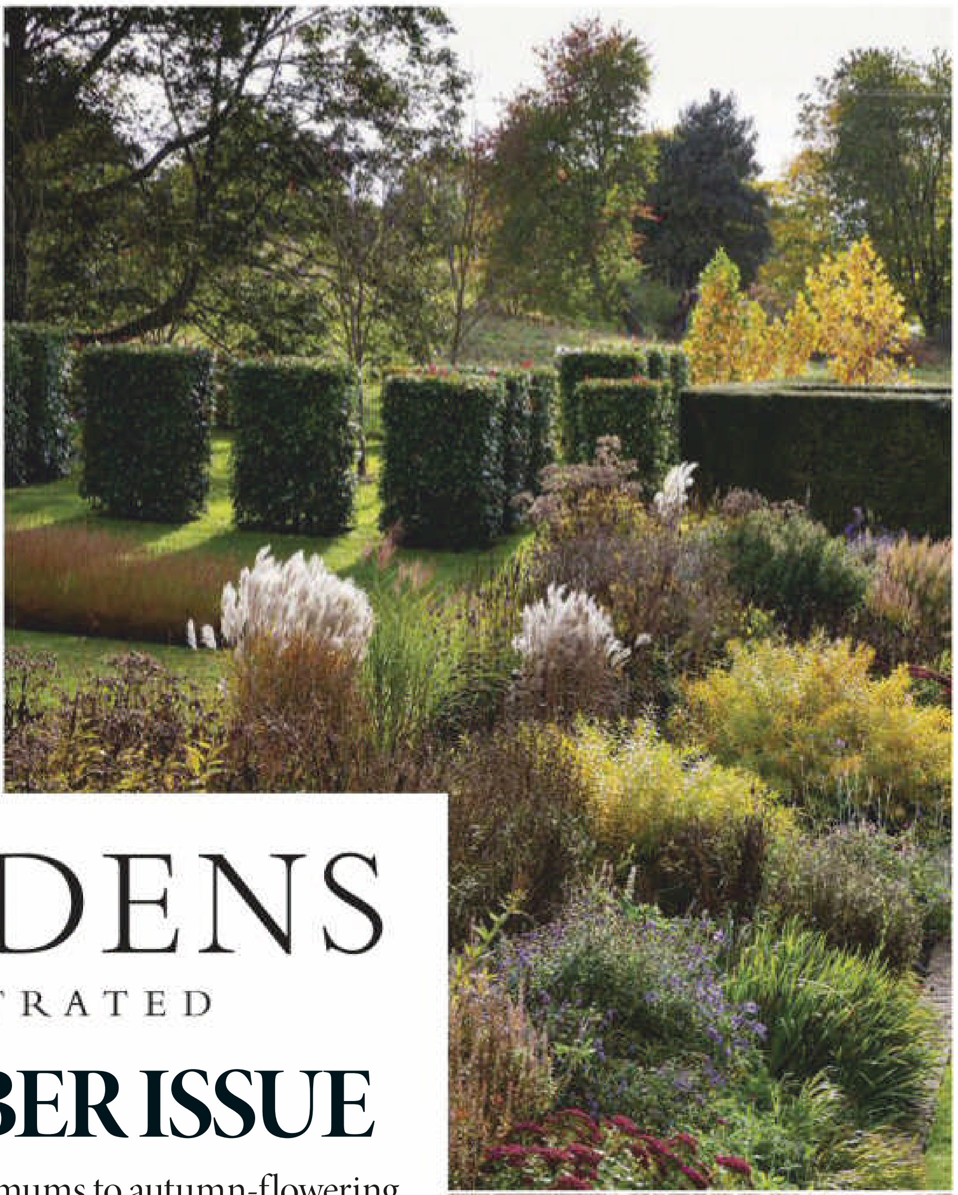
In 9cm pots: £6.75 per 3 pots. £20 per 9 pots, same variety: Coum Mix Pink, Coum White, Coum Silverleaf, Hedrifolium Pink, Hed White, Hed Silverleaf

MANY MORE VARITIES ON OUR WEBSITE. ALL BULBS ARE FLOWERING SIZE INCLUDING FREE GIFT

Delivery is £3.95 uk mainland only. Payment with order please, **Tel number or Email for delivery essential**.

Eurobulbs UK Ltd, 314, Smeeth Rd Marshland St James, Wisbech, Cambs PE14 8EP. Tel **01945 430009**. Email **info@eurobulbs.co.uk**

ALL MAJOR DEBIT AND CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED VISA



GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED

NOVEMBER ISSUE

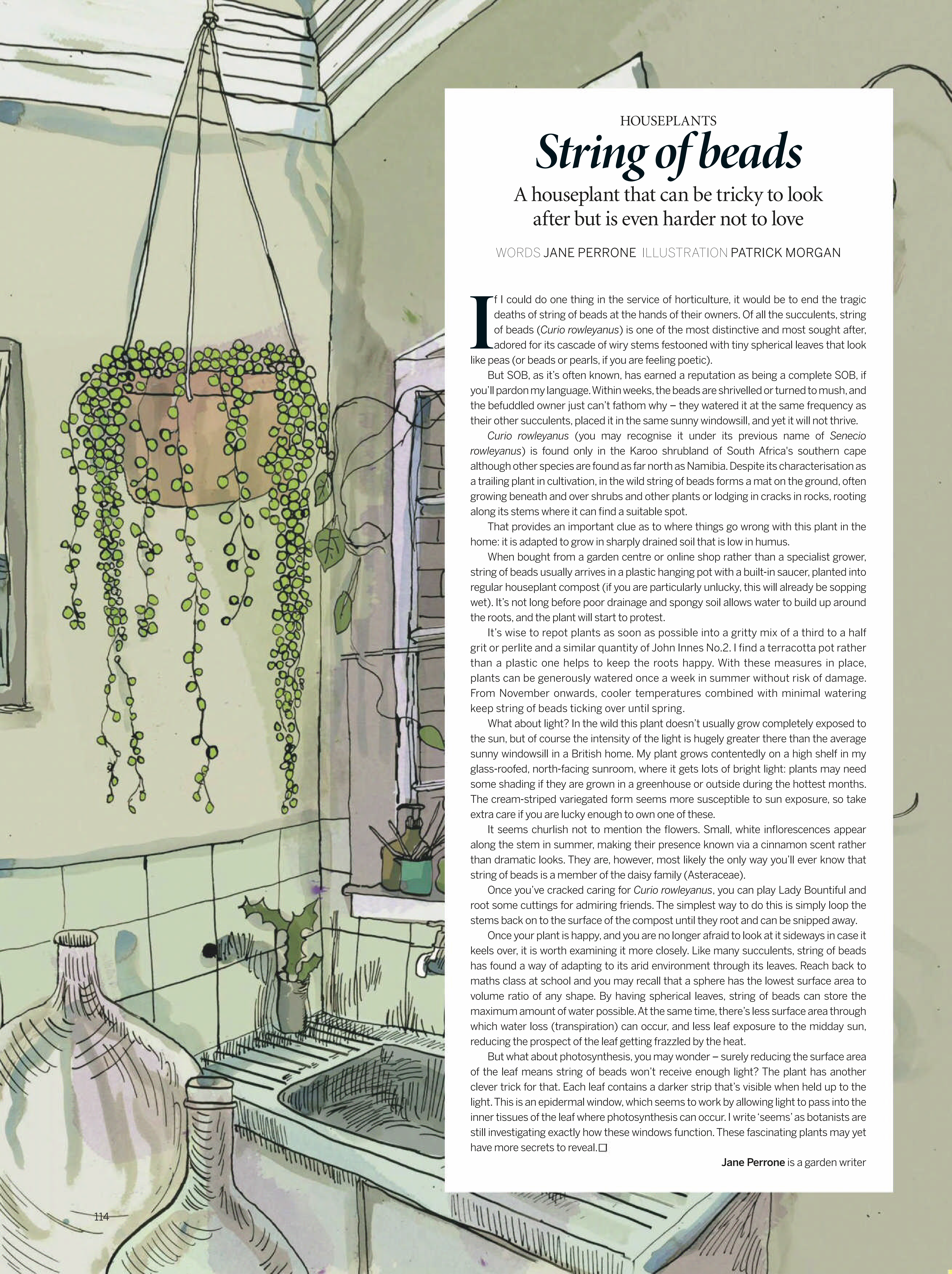
- From delicate chrysanthemums to autumn-flowering snowdrops, the best plants to choose for November
- A look inside designer Jeremy Allen's contemporary Arts and Crafts garden in rural Essex
- How to create a garden in the heart of a forest
- A tranquil and sheltered city garden in Amsterdam
- Creating beautiful bouquets from the vegetable patch
- Continuing our series on styling houseplants

JASON INGRAM, RICHARD BLOOM, SARAH CUTTLE, SIETSKE DE VRIES

GARDENS
Grow beautiful bulbs
GARDENS

ON SALE 11 NOVEMBER

Save money when you subscribe to the digital edition – see page 30.
Also in selected Waitrose, Sainsbury's and Tesco stores,
as well as WHSmith, and all good magazine retailers.



HOUSEPLANTS

String of beads

A houseplant that can be tricky to look after but is even harder not to love

WORDS **JANE PERRONE** ILLUSTRATION **PATRICK MORGAN**

If I could do one thing in the service of horticulture, it would be to end the tragic deaths of string of beads at the hands of their owners. Of all the succulents, string of beads (*Curio rowleyanus*) is one of the most distinctive and most sought after, adored for its cascade of wiry stems festooned with tiny spherical leaves that look like peas (or beads or pearls, if you are feeling poetic).

But SOB, as it's often known, has earned a reputation as being a complete SOB, if you'll pardon my language. Within weeks, the beads are shrivelled or turned to mush, and the befuddled owner just can't fathom why – they watered it at the same frequency as their other succulents, placed it in the same sunny windowsill, and yet it will not thrive.

Curio rowleyanus (you may recognise it under its previous name of *Senecio rowleyanus*) is found only in the Karoo shrubland of South Africa's southern cape although other species are found as far north as Namibia. Despite its characterisation as a trailing plant in cultivation, in the wild string of beads forms a mat on the ground, often growing beneath and over shrubs and other plants or lodging in cracks in rocks, rooting along its stems where it can find a suitable spot.

That provides an important clue as to where things go wrong with this plant in the home: it is adapted to grow in sharply drained soil that is low in humus.

When bought from a garden centre or online shop rather than a specialist grower, string of beads usually arrives in a plastic hanging pot with a built-in saucer, planted into regular houseplant compost (if you are particularly unlucky, this will already be sopping wet). It's not long before poor drainage and spongy soil allows water to build up around the roots, and the plant will start to protest.

It's wise to repot plants as soon as possible into a gritty mix of a third to a half grit or perlite and a similar quantity of John Innes No.2. I find a terracotta pot rather than a plastic one helps to keep the roots happy. With these measures in place, plants can be generously watered once a week in summer without risk of damage. From November onwards, cooler temperatures combined with minimal watering keep string of beads ticking over until spring.

What about light? In the wild this plant doesn't usually grow completely exposed to the sun, but of course the intensity of the light is hugely greater there than the average sunny windowsill in a British home. My plant grows contentedly on a high shelf in my glass-roofed, north-facing sunroom, where it gets lots of bright light: plants may need some shading if they are grown in a greenhouse or outside during the hottest months. The cream-striped variegated form seems more susceptible to sun exposure, so take extra care if you are lucky enough to own one of these.

It seems churlish not to mention the flowers. Small, white inflorescences appear along the stem in summer, making their presence known via a cinnamon scent rather than dramatic looks. They are, however, most likely the only way you'll ever know that string of beads is a member of the daisy family (Asteraceae).

Once you've cracked caring for *Curio rowleyanus*, you can play Lady Bountiful and root some cuttings for admiring friends. The simplest way to do this is simply loop the stems back on to the surface of the compost until they root and can be snipped away.

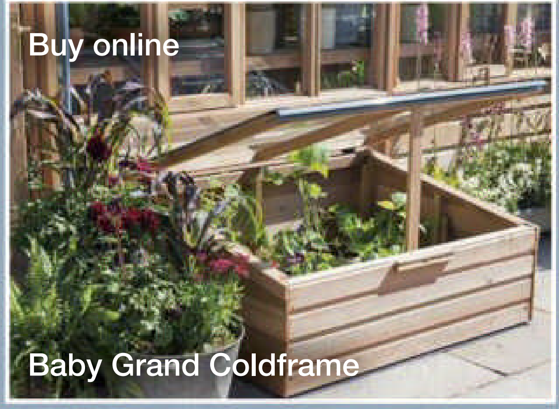
Once your plant is happy, and you are no longer afraid to look at it sideways in case it keels over, it is worth examining it more closely. Like many succulents, string of beads has found a way of adapting to its arid environment through its leaves. Reach back to maths class at school and you may recall that a sphere has the lowest surface area to volume ratio of any shape. By having spherical leaves, string of beads can store the maximum amount of water possible. At the same time, there's less surface area through which water loss (transpiration) can occur, and less leaf exposure to the midday sun, reducing the prospect of the leaf getting frazzled by the heat.

But what about photosynthesis, you may wonder – surely reducing the surface area of the leaf means string of beads won't receive enough light? The plant has another clever trick for that. Each leaf contains a darker strip that's visible when held up to the light. This is an epidermal window, which seems to work by allowing light to pass into the inner tissues of the leaf where photosynthesis can occur. I write 'seems' as botanists are still investigating exactly how these windows function. These fascinating plants may yet have more secrets to reveal. ☐

Jane Perrone is a garden writer

gabriel ash
Tradition & Technology

10 year manufacturers guarantee
Grand Grow & Store


Buy online
Baby Grand Coldframe

Free Greenhouse Builder
www.gabrielash.com

Buy online
Upright Coldframe

The only timber greenhouse company endorsed by the RHS

Whether you choose our smallest cold frame or a large bespoke greenhouse, you can expect the same class-leading quality, value and attention to detail that we're famous for.

Order a Free Brochure today visit www.gabrielash.com or email enquiries@gabrielash.com

RHS
Inspiring everyone to grow

MADE IN BRITAIN

PEFC
Promoting Sustainable Forest Management
www.pefc.co.uk

©The Royal Horticultural Society 2020. Endorsed by the Royal Horticultural Society. Registered Charity No 222879/SC038262. www.rhs.org.uk